

July 2018

Dear Parents and Carers.

As we near the end of the academic year 2017/18, I wanted to write to you all to review and reflect on some of the achievements of the year.

In September, we welcomed our new Head Teacher, Mrs McLean, and she has infected the whole school with her enthusiasm. She has given the 'Growth Mindset' concept a real focus and boost which has enabled the children to really believe in their own abilities. ERIS (Everyone Reading In School) has raised the enthusiasm for reading, and the 'back to basics' homework has also benefitted spelling and maths throughout the school. She can also add 'website designer' to her long list of qualifications too!

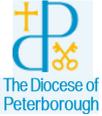
Behind the scenes Mrs McLean has introduced a new data and monitoring scheme so that the teachers are better able to track your children's progress. This also enables the Governing team to see clearly how groups of children are performing which empowers us to challenge appropriately. She has given the teaching team focus so that they are equipped to guide the children to achieve the very best they can.

One, amongst many, of the targets we set Mrs McLean was to increase the 'Christian Distinctiveness' of the school, and I'm sure you will have noticed that there has been a significant focus on improving this. Christian values are at the heart of everything we do as a Church of England school, and we have recently had inspections from both the Peterborough Diocese and the Local Authority, both of which are very pleased with the progress and direction of the school.

Mrs McLean has also achieved, and been awarded, her 'National Professional Qualification for Headship'. This is a qualification that she began work on well before joining Pattishall, and it has taken around two years to achieve. Many of you would have witnessed how we celebrate the achievements of the children at our Friday 'Celebration Assemblies', and I thought it would be appropriate to do this for her. Although Mrs McLean was out on a course last Friday, I was able to surprise her in front of the children in assembly earlier during the week, when I popped in to present her with her certificate.

This year we say goodbye to Mrs Jeffrey after a phenomenal 26 years of service at the school and on behalf of the Governing Team, past and present, I would like to thank her for the dedication she has given the school over that enormous period of time. We will welcome our new teachers Mr May, into Yr5, Ms Wigley & Ms Mills who will be sharing Yr3.

The Governing Team said goodbye to James Brazier earlier this year after four years of service, and following a parent election, we welcomed Amanda Callear to the team who is enjoying her new role. One of her responsibilities, now she has settled in, will be 'parental engagement' so expect to hear from her in the new school year. We will also say goodbye to Gemma Chapman and Julie Wood from the Governing Team at the end of term. We have been very active this year, not only supporting Mrs McLean in her first year as Head, but also challenging her to produce evidence of how the school is improving educationally,



how she is managing the school financially, and that the school is complying with its statutory requirements with regard to safeguarding, health & safety & information. We've also been working with the local authority and being involved in the recruitment of new teaching staff. You will also have seen us around at school events too, as we try to make the governing team more visible. I would like to thank all of our Governors for their time and commitment to the school.

The FOPS team, chaired by Val and Lesley, have put on some great events for the children to enjoy including the regular cake and lolly sales, Christmas fair, and school discos, as well as providing refreshments at school events. It would be easy to think that FOPS are just about raising funds. Fund raising is key in the current school funding environment and without the support of you all, and the hard work that the FOPS committee and volunteers put in, facilities such as the library and the new school furniture just wouldn't be possible. However, FOPS is more than just a fund raising platform, it's primarily a vehicle for parents to get to know each other, to get to know the staff, to get to know children other than their own, to represent the school community and provide those extra experiences for the children. Being part of the FOPS team gives the opportunity to influence the wellbeing of not just their own children, but of all those in the community. Please look out soon for the notice of the FOPS AGM in September. We would love to see you all there.

Finally, not everything has gone as planned.....we are all humans. It is human nature to not like change. There are many reasons why: inconvenience; uncertainty; more work; cost; 'I'm an individual'; 'that's not the way we've done it before'; 'in my day we did it like this'. Changes have been made with the genuine intention to make improvement. Social media makes for a good story, although messages can sometimes be inaccurate or not have the full picture. The thread rarely resolves the original issue, and cannot compete with a face to face conversation, or phone call. The 'Virtual Playground' on Facebook is a great platform for being able to be in contact with other parents, when not in the 'actual' playground, and we would encourage you to continue to make use of it. If you feel that something is really not right, then we would urge you to contact the school via the office, directly with your child's class teacher, or directly to Mrs McLean. The matter can then be resolved or explained without delay.

We are all part of the school team, and I would like to thank you all for supporting your young people in doing the best that they can. It's been a great year. I hope the weather continues to be fine and you all have a fantastic summer.

I look forward to seeing you all in September.

With my very best regards.

*Geoff*

Geoff Brand  
Chair of Governors  
Pattishall CE Primary School  
pattishallcog@gmail.com