

## July 2018 Governor's Newsletter: Reflections on an Outstanding School Year

Dear Parents and Carers

We come to the end of another busy and active school year. As the saying goes: 'it takes a village' – and the continued successful partnership between parents, carers, teaching staff, the school leadership team, the Parents Forum representatives, and one of the most active PTAs in Reigate is vital to the continued flourishing of our school. Everyone plays a role; and every role is important.

### **What we have been doing**

The Governors have been focused on supporting Anya Salisbury and the school leadership team through introductions of new curriculum tools and approaches, which have already shown improvement in addition to adopting new technology to analyse and be better informed on the progress and trends of our children's education.

We have also been involved in providing guidance on the GDPR changes, and supporting the school as it has fought to save our Children's Centre.

We have enjoyed regular visits to your children's classrooms to see them in action, including a special visit on Maths and the Growth Mindset to ensure we are walking the talk on all aspects of your child's education.

The governors also started working as part of the Greensands Academy, and we will continue to develop our role and relationship within the academy to the benefit of the school. We have already benefited from the expertise and help of the Academy, for instance with their support for the Children's Centre. As a governing body we are now at full strength and have spent the last 6 months evaluating our role so that we can better support and serve the school and its aims.

### **The first year with a new head teacher**

We wish to recognize the smooth transition to a new head teacher, Anya Salisbury who joined us at the start of the academic year and has had a superb first year leading the school. She has introduced new initiatives to increase and improve dialogue between parents and the school through the Parents Forum, in addition to introducing more opportunities for you to be part of your child's learning journey. Behind the scenes she has put tremendous focus into developing the teaching staff, identifying areas to further improve our curriculum and teaching, working with the other head teachers in the academy, and developing a vision for the school.

In a recent external moderation of our KS1 results by Surrey County Council, where the evidence and SAT results of 27 children were randomly selected across Y2 for auditing, they stated that the school's procedures and systems for ongoing assessment were outstanding. The comments were:

- Rigorous and robust assessment systems are embedded across the school.
- Teachers are well supported by the school's leadership team.
- All assessment judgments are consistent and accurate across all subjects.
- Teachers clearly know their children and plan exciting learning opportunities.

We are very proud of this achievement and wish to congratulate our Y2 teaching team.

Another major area of focus for Anya Salisbury together with Ms Durbridge has been fighting to save the Children's Centre.

### **Fighting for the Children's Centre**

Despite all our best efforts, Surrey County Council do not see Woodhatch as a high enough need area to warrant a children's centre. Due to the budget cuts, there will be four centres in Reigate and Banstead and sadly our centre is not being considered as one of them.

Both Anya Salisbury and Anna Durbridge have fought hard at every opportunity for the centre to continue in its current form. They led a joint proposal by a consortium of head teachers each with a children's centre to provide services for all Reigate and Banstead. This proposal was supposed to go to public consultation along with other proposals so the public could have their say.

However Surrey have now informed us they will make the final decision. The outlook is not looking good for our Children's Centre.

However, it remains our intention to support our families in our community. We have a lot of support from schools in the area and the trust we are part of as well as parents and families – thank you to all who signed the petition. As such we are investigating the possibility of establishing a charity and raising funds to continue to provide support to our families.

We will update you in September but it's important you understand that no stone has been left unturned in fighting for the future of the Dovers Green Children's Centre.

### **A special thank you to these individuals for their tremendous contribution**

We would like to recognize the outstanding contribution of Sharon Nunweek as Chair of the PTA for the last few years. Through her dedication, persistence and creativity, she has taken the PTA and the contribution it makes to the school to a new level. We would also like to welcome Dee Carmel Breach as the new Chair of the PTA.

We would also like to thank the entire Dovers Green teaching team from the teaching assistants to the leadership team for their dedication to our children this school year.

### **Good luck to our Year 2 children**

It's time to say farewell to our Year 2 children and wish them well as they embark on the next stage of their educational journey. We wish you every success and you are always welcome to come back and see us in the future. We look forward to welcoming our new cohort of reception children and families in September.

Finally, we would like to thank you for your support and involvement with the school over the past year. As Governors, we are proud of Dovers Green School, its staff and our children and to be part of this special community. We hope you are proud to be part of it too.

Have a wonderful and safe summer holiday.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George Watt". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined.

George Watt

Chair of Governors