



RHODES AVENUE PRIMARY SCHOOL

19 July 2016

Dear Parents and Carers

END OF YEAR UPDATE FROM THE CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

It was lovely to see so many of you and your children at Fun Day recently. As has often been the case, our annual outside event defied the weather predictions and brought us sunshine despite the odds!

I would like to share some reflections on the past year.

As ever, the school can celebrate many different successes, both academically and across the wider curriculum. Our choirs, orchestras, sports, art, drama, ICT and various clubs have given all the children an opportunity to shine and there will be more details about these activities in the Annual Report published next term.

The school and governors are also delighted by the results of the national assessments and tests. The Early Years and Phonics assessments have improved on last year and the SATs tests results for year 2 and year 6 are exceptional under difficult national circumstances.

As the curriculum and the tests have changed, comparing like-on-like SATs results with the previous year is not possible. However, comparing Key Stage 1 (year 2) results with the local average for this year, Rhodes Avenue is at least 30% higher at expected levels in reading, writing and maths.

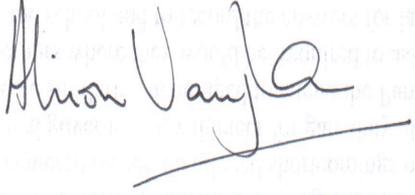
At Key Stage 2 (year 6), the Department for Education (DfE) was expecting 65% of children sitting the new and harder tests nationally to achieve the required marks in reading, writing and maths combined. The actual figure is 53%. Rhodes Avenue achieved 83% - a true testament to the quality of teaching at the school and to our wonderful children who take change in their stride and step up to new challenges. Governors are very impressed by the positivity that all staff have shown in a particularly demanding year, and by the outcomes they and the children have achieved. We would also like to thank our parents and carers for continuing to support the school and their childrens' learning so admirably.

In this year alone, assessment, the curriculum and the exam system have all changed. For Rhodes Avenue, we also had the big change of a new headteacher. Adrian Hall had to get used to our school and steer it ahead, whilst dealing with very challenging national directives. Having worked closely with him over the last year, I have been impressed by his focus, commitment, compassion and clear sense of direction.

There are uncertainties for education in the next year, and possibly for years to come. It remains to be seen how the UK's political future and its relationship with the EU may affect decisions about schools across the country. Fortunately, Rhodes Avenue has a cohesive Governing Body with a wide range of skills, and one that understands very well its role in determining and steering a strategic future for the school. Governors will continue to do the very best for the school, along with the headteacher, the senior leadership team, and all the staff.

I hope you and your children all have a wonderful summer break, and look forward to seeing you again in September.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alison Vaughan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Alison Vaughan
Chair of Governors, Rhodes Avenue
parents190716