



RHODES AVENUE PRIMARY SCHOOL

01 May 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been a while since I wrote to you, so I thought it would be good to update you on what the school's governors have been doing recently.

I wouldn't usually start with news about the governing body, as understandably, you want to know how we are helping your children. However, the governing body has important news for the school. The governing body was shortlisted for the national Outstanding Governance Awards (OGA) a few months ago, and was then interviewed by three members of the National Governors Association (NGA). As a result, your governing body is now a finalist for this award and will be going to a ceremony at the House of Commons in May. I am very proud of governors – past and present – who have contributed to making our school an extraordinary place for your children to learn and enjoy their childhood.

Governors, as always, were at the last parents' evening to speak to parents and ask how their children were doing and if there were any issues parents wanted to raise. All of your comments are recorded and fed back to the governing body and relevant committees. The new Homework initiative was one issue that cropped up – interestingly, there is still a split between those of you who welcome the change and those of you that prefer the old system. We will be doing another short parent survey on this during the Summer term – the Senior Leadership Team will then feed back to the governors and we will decide whether to continue with this initiative in the next academic year.

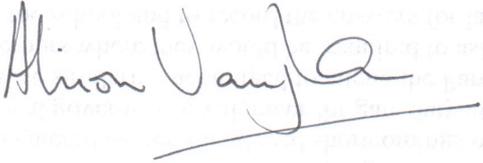
Funding for schools continues to be a very difficult issue for schools around the country, as we all try to deliver education for less money. Rhodes Avenue is fortunate in that we have excellent facilities and can use these to offer spaces for extra-curricular activities and lettings, as well as our Breakfast and After School clubs and holiday provision. Our budget would be very different without these – as it is, our three-year projection is reasonably healthy and governors are grateful to the Headteacher and Tracy, our school business manager, for their tireless work in keeping the school budget viable. Our Resources committee keeps a close eye on how we manage the budget and implications for the future.

A key focus in our School Development Plan for this year is to look at how to deliver fantastic teaching, giving your children and our staff the best opportunities to enjoy learning and teaching. Our Curriculum committee has had presentations from various staff leaders and teachers to understand even more about how the curriculum is being delivered, and the committee is also scrutinising data that shows, in anonymised form, how every single child is making progress.

Governors will be hosting an evening for parents in the summer term. I hope many of you will be able to come. We will be celebrating our wider curriculum – not possible for many schools – with examples of music, art (and maybe some food made by the children!)

I hope you all had a wonderful Spring break and look forward to seeing you soon, especially at the governors' evening for parents. We will let you know the date very soon.

Best regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alison Vaughan". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

Alison Vaughan MBE
Chair of Governors