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24<sup>th</sup> July 2017

## Governing Body Annual Report to Parents

Dear Parents and Carers,

I'll start this year's letter, slightly differently to previous years, by giving my thoughts about our school before my usual round up. I am incredibly proud of all the hard work that is put in by everyone associated with our school and have found that I have actually looked forward to writing this to shout about the incredible things that we've achieved. As part of my day job, I've been involved with a junior school in Leeds, who believe that they are very good. Their issue is that they are 'Good'. They're not aspiring to be 'Outstanding' and whilst the children in the school are happy and doing well, when compared to our incredible children they are missing that extra spark that we all see and recognise on a daily basis and take for granted. In conversation recently with some parents, it became apparent that we are on the cusp of becoming complacent because we are 'Outstanding' and parents, governors and teachers all know this. However, we cannot and will not remain 'Outstanding' without the continued support and interventions from everyone. The recent school trip to the synagogue, I believe, is a great example of this. Whilst as a parent, I understand parents' concerns given the recent atrocities we have all witnessed around the country, not notifying the school about a change of heart until literally the last minute as the coach was being boarded became upsetting for the children, disappointing for the staff who had organised the trip and a costly one as transportation had already been paid for, far in excess of what was actually needed as less than two thirds of the Key Stage Two children actually attended.

We also need parental and community support for our incredible Friends. Historically this body of people have fundraised at various times throughout the year, providing much needed resource for our school. Over the past three years, their numbers have dwindled dramatically resulting in us finding we didn't have the ability to even provide refreshments or a raffle at this year's incredible performance of Madagascar. But why do we need fundraising? The monies that we receive as a school, give us resource to run classes based on 30 pupils in each. As you know, your governing body has long maintained the belief that maintaining smaller class sizes contributes significantly to the friendly, family feeling that we experience when we visit the school and visit any class. As a result of this, we spend more on teaching than is budgeted for and need your support in bridging that gap. I would therefore ask, as we go through the summer holidays, give some thought as to what you can do to support your school, as we look to fund numerous projects next year, including building toilets for Orange Class, approximate cost £20,000 and a new ventilation system for the kitchen £5,000 to mention just two of the larger projects.



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What benefits have we seen from this increased staffing? This year's Key Stage Two SATS results are simply amazing and significantly better than national average and I'm sure you join me in thanking Mrs Parker and all who work with her in Key Stage Two in delivering these incredible results. This was recognised and commented on by Paul Brennan, Assistant Director of Education for NYCC, when he visited the school and you'll all remember the letter he sent stating that: "Without a shadow of a doubt my visit to your school was a real highlight for me, it is a precious learning community that is clearly valued and cared for by your children and the school team as a whole."

But it's not all about "writing and sums", we also recognise the important part that being fit and healthy plays in everybody's lives. We've had another year, where Mrs Umpleby has raised the bar on her own incredible performance last year and has taken our young sportsmen and women to even more finals, bringing back even more trophies than ever before - Truly amazing!

We briefly mentioned Madagascar earlier. What an incredible performance! All the young people performing on the stage or working as technicians did an incredible job. The timings were superb. The psychotic penguins were as good as the originals in the film, whilst King Julien was probably even better and I'm sure Pixar, if they knew, would be basing any future versions on him. I was struck by the incredible maturity and bravery of the four main characters. I don't think at age eleven I would have been confident enough to stand up and sing on my own in front of so many people. This was of course primarily the Year 6 production with support from the rest of Key Stage Two and whilst being the final dramatic production of the academic year, we can't forget Scrooge in the church; the amazing Angel Small or even the events held in our beautiful church such as Harvest Festival where our young people surpass themselves year on year with their singing, reading, acting and technical skills. Given that the general adage is "the children must take after Mum/Dad". This tells me we have an incredibly talented pool of parents out there— primed and ready waiting to be involved with the school (But you don't have to sing!).

Not everything that goes on in school takes place in school. I am of course referring to Forest School and the Year Four campout. Mrs Worgan remains as passionate about this form of learning today as she did when we launched it eight years ago and I'm delighted that her passion for our children will be further enhanced with her working more within the school next year, as she job shares with the very lovely Mrs Young, who has now returned from maternity. I am sure the combination of these two outstanding teachers in one classroom will be the envy of schools across our cluster and beyond.

Unfortunately, we are also saying goodbye this term to the very talented and professional Mrs Dale, who has covered Mrs Young's maternity leave so capably. Mrs Phillips, who has worked arduously in Year Four/Five and to Mrs Knowles who has been at the school for sixteen years, teaching across all age groups. To all of them, I am sure you join me, in expressing our heartfelt thanks for everything they have done and all they have contributed. As every door closes, another one opens, and we welcome the very talented Miss Wallace, who I'm sure a number of you will have already met when she has been in school for the transition mornings with her new class, at staff meetings or even at the Madagascar production. She brings great experience, along with fresh ideas and an infectious love of learning! We're all really looking forward to working with her in the years to come. We cannot forget that we welcomed the amazing Father Robert to our school this year and from day one he has been fully involved and integrated with our school and I'm sure he feels, as we do, that he's been here forever. His support and guidance during the incredibly tough process of selecting our new headteacher was very much appreciated by not just the panel, but the wider governing body.



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As you know, Pre-school officially joined us last September and continue to go from strength to strength, with the hopes for growth for pre-school in their new setting being realised with all sessions filled to capacity not just in the summer term, but already booked for the Autumn Term – unheard of! Well done Early years team! As part of the transition for Pre-school last year, Mrs White very kindly agreed to be an associate governor to help ensure a smooth transition and I would like to thank her publically for her contributions and input not just on pre-school matters but on wider topics including the proposed forthcoming transition of the school to a Multi Academy Trust. I would also thank all parents and community members who came along to our meeting to discuss the proposals. It was heartening to see such passion for our school and instils confidence that moving forward we are all aligned to delivering the very best we can for our school. To help facilitate these changes, the governing body has approached Katie Matten with a request that she joins us as an associate governor, initially for a year (I've managed fifteen so far, so I hope she doesn't expect to get out too soon!), and I am delighted that despite having an agenda so full as to be almost ridiculous she has agreed to join us, bringing an enormous skillset to our team.

We've come to the end of another incredibly busy and successful year that is particularly significant this year as we move into a chapter for our school. As I'm sure you are all aware, we say goodbye to Mrs Williamson after eight incredibly successful and fast-paced years. Considering the strap line at her interview was "I won't change anything!" the school is almost unrecognisable from when she took over and for all the right reasons, with standards in teaching, learning, classroom displays, performing arts, sports etc. etc. all now at an incredibly high level. This could not have been achieved without an inordinate amount of hard work on her part both in term time and out of term time, along with the outstanding contributions of the team we have in place at our school. I am 100% confident that as we move into the new academic year, our new Headteacher Miss Gledhill will not maintain these standards, she will grow them in new and varied directions, building upon the very solid foundations that have been laid in our school. I am sure you all join me in wishing Mrs Williamson every success in her new venture and Miss Gledhill the very warmest of welcomes to our 'Outstanding' school.

It goes without saying that my final words should be to thank everyone involved with our school: our outgoing Headteacher, the very driven Mrs Williamson; the incredible teaching staff, including all teaching assistants; the unseen superstars: catering, caretaking etc.; the governing body and the link between all of them, our amazing, hard-working administration team who manage to keep all of us in the right place; at the right time; doing the right thing.

Very best wishes for a wonderful summer,

Mr Ian Juden,  
Chair of Governors



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