

Dear Parents and Carers,

With the end of the school year fast approaching, the Governors would like to give you an update on what has been happening over the last few months at Sparsholt C of E Primary School.

### New School Leadership

As we confirmed in an earlier letter to you, Mrs Elizabeth Hanratty will be taking up her post as our Headteacher in September 2019. Mrs Hanratty joins us from Durley C of E Primary School, where she has been an Assistant Headteacher for the last four years. Mrs Hanratty has been busy meeting with both Mr Davies and Mrs Gwilliam and also joined the Governors for a training session last week. Mrs Hanratty is absolutely delighted about joining Mrs Gwilliam in leading our school from September and is very much looking forward to visiting the school over the coming weeks to meet the pupils, staff and wider school community. With lots of exciting events planned this term, Mrs Hanratty will be joining us wherever possible and we will let you know as soon as there is a firm date for you all to meet her.

### Report from Governor Meetings

Governors met this week for a Curriculum Committee meeting. Curriculum meetings are currently held three times per year, in addition to three Finance and Staffing meetings and four Full Governing Body meetings. The meeting offered an opportunity for the school leadership team to show some of the teaching and learning improvement activities since January. This was an opportunity for Governors to measure impact on our pupils.

### Highlights included:

- Maths - We learned more about the development of the mastery approach in maths supported by White Rose resources. The profile of this approach has been raised and has improved the levels of consistency across the school, with very positive feedback from the teachers.
- Topic books and project work - We also had the opportunity to look at some of the new Topic Books being used to record and chart all the work that the children are doing in their integrated curriculum projects.
- Ideas for 'Fab Fridays' - Mrs Gwilliam shared her plans to welcome parents, and carers on the first Friday of each month at school pick-up so your children will be able to share their learning with you.
- Handwriting and presentation - Governors were impressed to see the effect that the recent focus on handwriting has had across the school, with an improvement in presentation of children's work in their books clearly evident.

### Parent Questionnaire

Governors would like to express their thanks to everyone who completed the recent Parent Questionnaire. The results are currently being assimilated and analysed, and we will be back in touch with you before half term to share responses to your feedback.

It has been a very busy year for everyone involved in the running of our school and Governors would like to take this opportunity to say thank you.

Firstly, a huge thank you to Mrs Gwilliam for the enormous amount of work and energy she has poured into maintaining high standards of education and wellbeing for our children, and indeed the whole school community since last November. By taking on the role of Acting Head for three days per week, Mrs Gwilliam substantially increased her workload, but has done so with great positivity and enthusiasm, whilst guiding our school through a time of transition. In a year of many increased challenges, Mrs Gwilliam has been integral to the continued smooth running of the school on a daily basis. She has embraced all the challenges and inspired others to be resilient, creative, courageous and compassionate. Mrs Gwilliam is a true ambassador for our values.

We would also like to thank Mr Davies for joining our school at very short notice and agreeing to work alongside Mrs Gwilliam in leading our school for two days per week whilst also remaining Headteacher at his own school. Mr Davies has shared his experience, ideas and good practice with Mrs Gwilliam and the staff team and has offered an objective overview in relation to the quality of assessment and teaching standards which has contributed to an already robust school improvement plan.

Finally, we would like to show a special recognition and thanks to all the staff for their sustained hard work, drive and energy during this school year. At a time of unexpected change and transition within our school, our committed staff team have all gone above and beyond to ensure that the experience of all the children has continued to be outstanding. They have worked tirelessly to support Mr Davies and Mrs Gwilliam in all new initiatives.

As always, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Governing Body.

Best wishes

Sparsholt Governors

Kathy Bamber (Chair)	Helen Ley
Katy Cobbald (Vice Chair)	Matt Stagg
Dan Parsons (Chair Finance & Staffing)	Ceri Baber
Sally Wesley (Chair Curriculum)	Dr Hannah Fluck
Reverend Jax Machin	Kath Edgecombe
Jane Gwilliam (Staff Governor)	Howard Firth