

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of term, I am very pleased to have this opportunity to share some of our news and achievements, and tell you about our priorities for the remainder of the academic year. Much of the work of the Governing Body is managed by Governor Committees that report in to the full Governing Body. A summary of their activities can be found in the 'Governors' section of the school website and we will aim to update this information termly. In this newsletter I have pulled out some highlights that may be of particular interest to you.

SATS and League Tables

I am delighted to report that last year's Year 6 pupils were very successful in their SAT tests. Both Average Point Score (which measures absolute attainment) and Value Added score (which measures progress) were very strong, once again placing us alongside the highest achieving schools in the country. There are several measures by which schools are ranked and you can see a full breakdown of this data, with notes on how to interpret it, at the Department for Education website:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/performance/>

The Daily Telegraph published a table last Friday, which listed us as one of the top ten schools in the country, ranked by Average Point Score. This is a phenomenal achievement and it is the second time in two years that The Queen's School has featured in a published national top ten list. You can see a scanned copy of the table on the school website here: [Queen's Success in Primary League Tables](#)

Congratulations to the children who worked so hard to achieve these results and thank you to the entire staff team who support the children in their learning with such skill and dedication.

Priority Schools Building Programme

We have received some exciting news recently. The programme is ahead of schedule and our batch has been launched. Obviously the planning stages will take some time and we do not expect building work start until the middle of 2015. We expect the new building to open early in 2016. Representatives from the Education and Funding Agency, the Local Authority and the Diocesan Board for Education visited the school last week to make an initial assessment of the site. As the project moves forward in earnest, this will be a major focus for the Governing Body. A working party has been set up to manage the project internally and we are lucky to have parents with specialist skills and professional experience, who have offered their expertise as part of this group. The group will work closely with the team of specialists at the EFA to deliver the project successfully. More information on the programme and 'baseline designs' are available on this website:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/adminandfinance/schoolscapital/priority-school-building-programme>

Teaching and Learning

The government has published a new Primary Curriculum, which must be implemented by September. Getting this in place and gaining the greatest possible benefit from it will be a key focus for the leadership and governors in the coming months. We also continue to work hard to ensure that every child receives the challenge and support they need to fulfil their potential. The school leadership and governors are using data increasingly effectively to track progress and ensure that no child or group of children slips through the gaps. We are focussed on and committed to continuously improving the learning experience for each and every child, whatever their level of ability or need.

E-Safety

This year has seen an additional focus on e-safety as the school enters an exciting new phase with the introduction of the use of tablets across the year groups. Staff and governors are working together to ensure that best practice is followed and policies are developed to set a framework for taking advantage of the opportunities offered, while protecting our children and educating them in how to use the technology safely and responsibly. There will be opportunities for parents and carers to engage in this programme and the school strongly encourages you to take full advantage of this, to ensure that our children are supported and guided well, both at home and at school.

Governors' Appeal

Thank you very much to everyone who has contributed to the Governors' Appeal. So far the total raised by the appeal is significantly down on last year's total. This money is used to ensure that the children benefit from a safe environment that is conducive to learning and to fund projects that will directly benefit the children. If you would like to contribute to the appeal and have not yet done so, you can make a payment through ParentPay or cheques can be made out to The Queen's School Governors. (The suggested contribution is £32 per child.)

Governor Appointments

A number of governors reached the end of their term of office recently. Eleanor Garland, Susie Connor and Jan Deykin have all worked tirelessly in the best interests of the school over the last four years, chairing committees and ensuring that the best interests of the children are always at the forefront in our decision-making. We are blessed to have benefited from their skills and commitment and the entire school community owes them a huge debt of gratitude.

In their place we welcome a number of new governors: Lisa Calvert and Noel Singh have been appointed as Foundation Governors, while Eleanor Lamberton and Lucy Gradillas were elected as Parent Governors. Laura Coughtrie has joined the Governing Body as an Associate member. Michelle Jones has taken on the role of Clerk to the Governing Body. We welcome our new governors and thank them for stepping forward to serve our school community.

Christmas celebrations

I was lucky enough to attend the Infant Nativity, which was a wonderful and unique celebration of the Christmas story. Key Stage 2 attended the Carol Service at St. Anne's, where the worship through music and readings from the Bible was uplifting and the talents of the children were a delight to see. I know the Reception performance was also very special, with our youngest children already enjoying our school tradition of performance. On top of all this, there have been class parties, as well as a host of Christmas themed activities and 'The Kew Factor' has been in full swing. Many thanks to all the staff who ensure that the children have wonderful opportunities to celebrate, worship and reflect on the true meaning of Christmas.

Thank you

Finally, I would like to thank all the parents and carers who give their time to help the school in so many ways. The Christmas Fair organisers pulled off yet another enjoyable and successful event and every week parents are in school helping with reading, times tables, music, projects and other tasks. This support makes a tremendous difference to the children and we are very grateful.

I wish you, and your families, a joyful Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Bonney Venning
Chair of Governors

