

Tuesday 6th July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers of Ecclesall Primary School children,

I hope you and your families are well. It has been one of the strangest and most challenging years that we will have all faced and this has especially been the case for schools.

It was great to have the school reopen for all our pupils back in September, and whilst social distancing measures meant it was not 'normal', the children settled in amazingly well and quickly adapted to the new norm. As a governing body, we are extremely grateful to all the staff in school for their hard work in ensuring that school was safe and minimising the distribution to their learning that the pandemic caused. Moving to virtual lessons after Christmas was a lot easier, having learnt a lot from the first lockdown and I am sure many of you, like me, will have new found respect for the work teachers do each day when trying to encourage your children to read, write and do some maths.

We are particularly grateful to the senior leadership team who have worked tirelessly throughout, reacting to ever changing guidance, often last minute and which sometimes changed almost daily. The school has had to make difficult decisions throughout, always with the best interests of all our pupils at the forefront of our minds. We appreciate the impact that these decisions may have had at times but we have been guided by experts and always looked to implement practices that look to minimise the disruption our pupils experience.

As a governing body, we have continued to be a critical friend to the school and have reviewed the online learning and it was great to see some of the creative learning materials the staff produced. We have also monitored the impact the pandemic has had in our pupils learning; it will not be a surprise to say there has been an effect, but the staff have worked hard to address this and will continue to do so to ensure our pupils all achieve their best academically as well as developing the skills they will need as they continue to grow.

The additional catch-up funding provided has helped provide additional resources and we are hopeful that the government will continue to do more next year. We will continue to support the school in any way we can to address any gaps.

I hope that school will be a more 'normal' experience in September and many of the life experiences our pupils will have missed, for example school trips, fetes and just mixing with other year groups, will be allowed to return.

Wishing you all a safe and enjoyable summer, however that may look and wherever that may be.

Best Wishes
Kevin Corke
Chair, for and on behalf of the Governing Body