

Friday 12th July 2024

Dear Parents & Carers,

It has been another busy year at Ecclesall and as always, I am impressed by the dedication and commitment of our staff to ensuring our pupils achieve their potential during their time at school. It is an important time in a child's development, learning the social and emotional skills to ensure they are able to take on the challenges life brings and the variety of experiences our pupils experience during their time at Ecclesall is amazing and something my own daughters both talk of fondly.

The school has been lucky to have the budget, over recent years, to be able to invest in our school, making improvements and looking at how the building and our grounds can be improved to support the pupils learning. We rely on the senior leadership and staff, as the professionals, to decide on what is required, in the best interests of our pupils and supports the strategic direction of the school. Our role as governors is to act as critical friends, providing support and challenge to the decisions the leadership team make. The decisions we have made have placed the school in an excellent position to weather the challenges schools are facing. We are not complacent and static budgets mean that difficult choices need to be made; the governing body has the right mix of skills and experience to undertake this important role, with representation from our key stakeholders including parents and the community, making informed choices. We acknowledge not everyone will agree with everything the school does and the decisions we make but to reassure you, all decisions are made with the best interests of our pupils, both current and future, in our minds.

The proposed MUGA is something, as a governing body, we have discussed at length with the leadership team, listening to the rationale for the scheme and the benefits that it would bring in terms of increasing the amount of usable space available for taught, free play and after school club offerings. Whilst we could have been better in terms of our communications, we believe that increasing the space available for outdoor provision is the right decision. We continue to work with the local authority and once we know the outcome of the planning application, we will communicate with you regarding the plans we have for outdoor play. This will now be in the new school year.

If you haven't already done so, I would encourage you to walk around the school grounds and have a look at all the other projects we have delivered to improve the outdoor learning environment for the school and ensure that all our site can be used.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the EPTFA for their hard work throughout the year, raising much needed funds for our school. The totals raised really do make a difference to the school and our pupils.

Finally, a big thank you to the staff and leadership team for their hard work throughout the year; the school continues to grow alongside its pupils.

Best Wishes

Kevin Corke,
Chair of Governors
Ecclesall Primary School