

Chair of Governors: Annual Review by Paul Smith.

If the weather is not a big enough reminder, then school sports day and induction for parents of next year's reception class, should tell you that the end of the academic year is around the corner. I would like to reflect on the schools achievements and update you on the work of the governing body this year.

Staff changes

All organisations have periods of stability followed by periods of change, Clutton has been no different. We waved a fond farewell to Mr Tanner as he left to pursue his ambitions elsewhere in the Midsomer Schools Partnership, allowing Mrs Morris and Mrs Candy to build on Mr Tanners good work in Orinoco class. Miss Elson looked after Reception class until Mrs Parkes-Cordock joined after Christmas.

Thank you to the children and to parents for showing your resilience and embracing the necessary change.

Ofsted

Since Sept 2016 Miss Ennew and the LGB had had growing concerns that the school was not performing as you would hope. So it was with a sense of trepidation, that we received the call that the OFSTED inspector was due in January 2018. If I'm honest, I felt the inspection was 6 months too early for the school to demonstrate the changes made were having the desired impact. But I was wrong to worry, the school leadership and pupils really demonstrated to the inspector that Clutton had turned things around and were heading in the right direction. Read the inspectors report here: https://files.api.beta.ofsted.gov.uk/141767_2.PDF

Finances

The long term impact of reduced primary school funding in the UK has put Clutton finances under a lot of stress in previous years. For many years, Clutton School had made a deficit, it has lost money for at least the last 4 years. Many of this year's governor board meetings were focused on addressing the long term financial sustainability of the school. Our primary driver has been to ensure the financial survival of the school whilst not sacrificing the learning environment the children enjoy. Hopefully we have found that balance this year, if the surplus continues for the next three years Clutton will have paid down its deficit.

Creativity

You will have noticed that play times look very different in school now. This has been achieved through the introduction of Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL), funded via the grant to ensure pupils engage with regular physical activity. The children are discovering their imagination and creativity at play time. A special thank you to all involved in bringing this initiative to life. Miss Ennew, Mrs Appleyard, Mrs Cowgill and Governor Mrs McGough

The harvest festival, Christmas plays, Spring Bulb show, Talent shows, class learning exhibitions and Art exhibitions don't happen by accident, your children work very hard. Governors have been impressed by the standard on display and are proud that the school is developing a reputation for its Arts.

Progress

Performance data on pupil attainment and progress for 2017/18 will not be available until September, but early indicators across the school are good. A full cohort of new reception class next year, means no mixed class for them and reflects the confidence the community has in the school. In 2018/19 Governors will look to cement the work already done and support the school in sharing its vision with the community.

Thank you

Thank you to Alex Piddock and Sarah Williams who stepped down from the governing body this year. Sarah left after an impressive 14 years of voluntary service, she started when her children were at Clutton, and they are now at University! Thank you, Sarah.

On behalf of the governing body thank you to all the staff. A special thank you to the parents who volunteer their time in so many different ways. Whether you've listed to children read, helped with the school uniforms, gardens or gone on a trip, thank you.

Lastly and most importantly thank you to the children for making 2017/18 a very successful school year.

I hope you enjoy the last few weeks and have a wonderful summer with your families.