



Governor Update Summer 2017



Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you found our Spring update of interest. Much has happened since then, not least the short inspection from Ofsted on 7th March. The governors are immensely proud of the Good judgement the school received and the children & staff deserved the recognition afforded to them in the letter from the inspector. If somehow you missed reading it, the report is publically available from Ofsted or view via the link on our website <https://www.ashton.worcs.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/2017-Ofsted-short-inspection-report.pdf>. Please accept our special thanks to everyone who was able to complete the Parent View questionnaire in the short time given; a tremendous response in support of our school. The results can be viewed at <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/parent-view-results/survey/result/12288/current>.



We have just held our penultimate Full Governing Body meeting of this academic year, at which our budget was approved. We write in the midst of another General Election where education funding, testing, free school meals, grammars, tuition fees are all topics up for debate. Unfortunately, we can confirm that despite the claims of absolute funding never being higher, the pressure on school budgets reported by the media is REAL. We are fortunate our pupil numbers are healthy and with a combination of wise timely investments and daily prudent financial controls in place, our books balance. We have a good grasp of the issues and tough choices that may present themselves in the near and medium future, but for now our school does not have a deficit, unlike many, and we have a budget plan that continues to support the staff and focus on the improvements we wish to deliver. We are extremely grateful to everyone who contributes to the school, volunteers their time and to the PFA who fundraise for us and all those who support their efforts.



We also send our thanks and best wishes to our fellow governor, Juliet Shiels and the Envirominnies for all their hard work in the school on our submission for the Green Flag Award. Good luck. Fore mostly we are a community school and it is key to the governors we connect with the local area & countryside around us, take responsibility for it and encourage 'green fingers'. We are delighted with the school's participation again, led by Mrs Sarah Bennett, in the Ashton's Open Gardens and congratulate them on their 40th Anniversary event. We appreciate the support of parents, residents & businesses given to our involvement and trust the children will enjoy being guides to visitors and are proud of their efforts.

Finally, just to say our annual report will be issued at the end of the academic year. We will also update the record of individual governor attendance at meetings, which is summarised each year and published together with any declarations of interests. See <http://www.ashton.worcs.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Declaration-of-Interest-of-Governors-at-Ashton-under-Hill-First-School.pdf>.

In the meantime, if you wish to give any feedback, please do so via the office in person or by email to office@ashton.worcs.uk



Best Regards
Debra Lincoln, Chair of Governors