



1 December 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

It seemed like just yesterday that the new academic year was starting and we thought we would give you time to settle in before we bombard you with another newsletter, and now here we are, the nights are getting darker earlier and earlier, and we find ourselves hurtling toward the festive season!

As a governing body, we have been busy in various different ways since the term began and thought we would update you on some of our work.

Firstly we said good-bye to Mike Van Klink, a long-standing governor at St Peter's. Mike had sat on the governing body for many years since his son was at St Peter's and as Archie has just started university, it is fair to say that Mike's contribution had exceeded all expectations. Mike played an incredibly valuable role as the finance governor, working closely with Mrs Marder in the school office to ensure that we were on top of our budgets, had appropriate processes in place and in essence remain economically viable. Thank you Mike! We advertised for a new parent governor in the summer and we are very pleased to announce that Mrs Karen Connell has recently joined the governing body. Karen has a daughter in year 1 and is also a chartered accountant and certified internal auditor, so will help us to fill the gap that Mike left whilst bringing her own ideas to the role. Thanks to Karen for stepping up. There will be other vacancies for parent governors in the year to come, as terms come to an end and pupils and/or parents move on, so if you are interested in getting involved or would just like to understand more about it, please speak to Lisa or me about it.

At the start of the academic year, the governing body spend quite a bit of time reviewing many of the school's policies. In particular this year, we have looked at the school's admissions policy and debated whether the admissions criteria are still fit for purpose. We have decided to make a small change with regard to the allocation of church places. This will come into effect from 2024 and will mean that anyone applying for a church place will need to reside in the Brentwood area.

As part of the role of the governing body, individual governors regularly visit the school to look into particular areas of work, either to assure us that all is working as it should, or to see where we can continually improve what we do. Each governor writes up a report on their visit and brings any recommendations to the next meeting. There have been numerous visits this last term and a half, including one on safeguarding, well-being, EYFS provision, reading and another looking at how effective the targeted interventions were which were put in place to maximise progress in maths and literacy following COVID.

Another regular agenda item for the governors is looking at the achievement and progress data of the school. Our first data point in the year is coming up and we will be reviewing the progress and achievement at the December governing body meeting and using this as a baseline to see how the children are progressing over the rest of the year. At this point, we would like to thank Mr Gunn and all of the teaching and LSA staff for the enormous amount of time and energy that they put into our children's development. Last year was a tough year as, although we weren't contending with lockdowns, there were still a large number of COVID absences in staff and children, which meant that the teachers and LSAs had to work doubly hard to keep their classes progressing, while catching up the children who had missed school. We, as a governing body, appreciate the work that every single one of our teachers do and thank the staff across all phases. We would also like to make special mention of the EYFS team who have been working hard to embed the new curriculum and to



our year 5/6 team who worked with the children to achieve our best SATS results ever last year, with our combined maths and English scores being 35% above the national level. Thank you too to all of our subject leaders who shape such an engaging curriculum which helps our children not only learn but to enjoy their lessons at the same time.

While academic success is important, our school vision is to help our children to reach their potential in all areas. As a school, Mrs Mansell and Mrs Miller run a packed sporting calendar and have led the children to victories as district champions at netball, high five netball, year 2 cricket, year 3 and year 5 cross country, rugby, triathlon, sports hall athletics, girls swimming, boys swimming and year 5 football. We are also county champions at Rugby and year 2 cricket. These wins are great, but we also appreciate Mrs Miller and Mrs Mansell's ethos of ensuring that all children are included and developed, regardless of their ability, and so thank you to them for their energies and commitment. To continue to develop our children as well-rounded pupils, we have also had British Values week as well as numerous school trips and it is such a pleasure when we receive feedback from the public recognising how well behaved and well mannered our children are. Our commitment to well-being is also borne out by the fact that we now have 4 Mental Health First Aiders amongst the staff and a new safeguarding tracking system that allows us to support our children's overall health and well-being. Thank you also to our SPSWSA not only for another magnificent Christmas fayre but for all the other fund raising they have done this year; a special thanks to them from the governing body.

And finally, a quick note on Ofsted, as it has been 12 years since we were last visited and defined as outstanding, and so we suspect that our next visit is imminent. As governors, although we are always looking for ways to improve, through our meetings, the spot checks and deep dives we carry out, we have every confidence in the management team and believe that our school is exceptionally well-run, with all credit to Mr Gunn and the staff. Through our parent surveys we hope you feel that you have a voice, but if you have any ideas for improvement, or any concerns, please feel free to get in touch with us.

We hope you all have a wonderful Christmas, when it gets here, and find some time for some well deserved rest and recuperation.

With love

Victoria and Lisa