

## **LETTER FROM THE GOVERNING BODY: DECEMBER 2017**

Dear all

This has been a busy and productive term - as always! - with the Sayers Croft and Wick Court school journeys, the Primary Maths Challenge, the Shakespeare production, EP's Got Talent and the Carol Concert as just some of the highlights. The staff work exceptionally hard to provide these memorable experiences on top of their busy days in the classroom. Thanks are due also to the PTA - including the new team Hannah, Lucia and Lucy - and the other volunteers for such fabulous events as the school disco and Christmas Fair.

As for our work on the governing body, we started by reviewing our performance for the last academic year and planning our new programme for this year. We also welcomed two new parent governors, Flora Cornish and Rifca Le Dieu, to the team. In September Kate and I attended the regular "standards meeting" with the Camden education service to discuss the school's educational outcomes. This was a very positive meeting and it confirmed both that the school has high standards and is always striving to improve even further. As an example of some of our other governing body business this term, we have discussed and decided the school's position on pay, undertaken our online training for the Government's Prevent programme (which raises awareness of extremism) and, importantly, we decided to revive the annual Parent and Governors' Meeting.

Many thanks to those of you who came along to this gathering on a dark wet night in November and I hope that you found it useful to hear about what the governing body does and our roles and responsibilities. It is great to talk to parents about their thoughts on the school and I am pleased to say that in response to the questions and feedback from parents that evening that there will be dyslexia awareness "Shed Talk" for parents next term and training for staff. Caterlink - Camden's catering contractor - have confirmed that they are reducing the sugar content in desserts as part of their ongoing work on providing healthier food. We will be continuing this annual meeting and will try to have a governor "presence" at more EP events.

One disappointment this term is that the science lab is still not finished as a result of a problem with the suppliers of the new windows. We are very grateful for the patience shown by pupils and parents through this long (very long!) process. Thanks also to Sarah, our school business manager, for her superhuman efforts to keep the project moving. And special mention goes to governors, Tim and Boris, who have generously contributed their professional expertise to solve problems along the way. I'm wary now of making predictions on the finish date, but one thing that I am sure of is that the lab will be a fantastic resource used to the full by the school's dedicated and innovative staff.

Autumn always feels like a long term and I'm sure that staff, children - and parents too - are now ready for a break. So we would like to wish you all a happy and peaceful holiday season and look forward to an exciting new term in the New Year.

Jen Allan

Chair of Governors