December 2024

Dear Parent/ Carer,

The start of this academic year has been challenging for reasons that you are familiar with, and I would like to focus this letter on how the Governing Board is monitoring the changes associated with the restructuring, particularly in PE.

You might be aware that the school creates a School Development Plan (SDP) each autumn – subject leads identifying key objectives they plan to achieve during the year to drive forward educational standards. All subjects are covered in the SDP, but PE is the focus of a more in-depth plan this year due to the staffing changes we had to make. One of our parent governors, Richard Murrell, has responsibility for PE on behalf of the Governing Board, and has been monitoring the subject closely.

I'm pleased to report that Richard finds the teaching of PE remains very strong. His observations include:

- We are fortunate to have Mr Rose – who was the PE lead at his previous school – with responsibility for this subject
- All staff are engaging with professionalism and enthusiasm in delivering their PE lessons
- Staff are devoting a huge amount of time and effort into training to ensure the delivery of high-quality PE
- Resources are being spent on new equipment, and on new activities: look forward to Quidditch in the New Year!
- There is an increased focus on ensuring all pupils enjoy the curriculum to develop a life-long passion for sport as part of a healthy lifestyle
- Most importantly, the children are very positive about PE and how it's being taught; Richard spent time with two children from each year group (Years 1 to 6) asking them for their opinions – they were uniformly enthusiastic.

Richard's concluding remarks are worth quoting: 'I left feeling very positive towards Mr Rose's vision and drive towards enhancing the PE curriculum.'

There is a lot more monitoring and support from leaders, governors and external experts to ensure that PE continues to thrive at our school, but I felt it important to focus on the views coming from a parent who has a personal interest in the changes being delivered for the benefit of our pupils. Challenges exist – with PE and associated with the reduction in TA support in KS2 – but these are being overcome due to the skill and professionalism of our staff, along with parents' continued support and the enthusiasm of your children.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year,

Miles

Miles Maxwell, Chair of Governors

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we approach the Christmas break, I wanted to take a moment to update you on how the Governing Board is supporting the school through this year's changes, particularly in PE.

Each autumn, the school creates a School Development Plan, outlining key goals for every subject. This year, PE has been a special focus following the recent staff restructure. One of our parent governors, Richard Murrell, has taken on responsibility for PE on behalf of the Governing Board and has been closely monitoring its progress.

'm delighted to share that Richard has found the teaching of PE remains strong. His observations highlight several positives:

• **Strong Leadership:** PE continues to be guided with expertise and passion, ensuring high standards across the subject.

• **Staff Commitment:** All staff have embraced delivering PE lessons with enthusiasm and professionalism.

• **Ongoing Training:** Teachers are investing considerable time and energy into training, ensuring high-quality PE lessons.

• **New Opportunities:** Investment in new equipment and exciting activities, including Quidditch in the New Year, promises even more fun and skill development!

• **Positive Pupil Feedback:** Most importantly, the children continue to enjoy their PE lessons and are excited about how PE is being taught. Richard spoke with pupils from Years 1 to 6, and their enthusiasm for lessons was clear and heartening.

Richard summed up his findings by saying, *"I left feeling very positive about the vision and drive to enhance the PE curriculum."*

We are aware that other recent changes, such as reducing TA support in Key Stage 2, have brought some challenges. However, we have been greatly encouraged by feedback from parents acknowledging the skill and professionalism of our dedicated staff. Their unwavering commitment continues to ignite the children's enthusiasm for learning, making a tangible difference every day.

The partnership between home and school is vital to ensuring our pupils thrive academically, socially and emotionally. Your engagement, whether by attending welcome meetings, parent consultations, transporting pupils to sporting events, or supporting school performances like plays and nativity productions, helps create a supportive and enriched learning experience.

On behalf of the Governing Board, I would like to thank you for your continued support.

Wishing you a joyful Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year!

With warmest regards,

Miles Maxwell
Chair of Governors