Ickleford Primary School

Shared Values · Shared Aspirations · Shared Achievements

July 2025

Dear Parent/ Carer,

As we end another academic year, I wanted to write to you in my capacity as the Chair of Governors to share some of my thoughts about this year.

As a Governor, my favourite part of the role is when we spend a day in the school (last Wednesday) to observe teaching, talk to outgoing Year 6 students, and chat with the school council. We also have coffee with the staff and lunch with pupils. As ever, we were greatly impressed by your children who are confident, eloquent and fully engaged in their learning. They have a genuine affection for their school and are appreciative of the staff. They are a credit to themselves, their families and the school; you are right to be proud of them.

As many of you will be aware, there were some changes to staffing at the beginning of the academic year due to budget constraints. It is clear that the staff missed their colleagues and the positive impact they had on the school. Despite the issues this has created, I would like to acknowledge how the staff team have taken on the challenge of 'filling the gaps' and have minimised the impact on the school and students. I would also like to thank them for the amazing work they all do, going above and beyond, to help provide your children with the best possible school experience.

As an example, despite the loss of a dedicated sports coach, it is clear that staff and pupils agree that PE is still in a strong position. Staff have had extensive, high-quality training and are delivering PE lessons about which pupils were uniformly positive. This is echoed by the observations of our School Effectiveness Adviser (a retired headteacher whose role is similar to that of an Ofsted inspector) and the link governor for PE, Richard Murrell, who have monitored the delivery of the PE curriculum closely throughout the year. Having spoken to parents, I believe the recent Sports Day will have allowed you to enjoy the children's PE achievements first hand.

We also plan to hold an open evening in October at which you can ask us about the changes one year on, and absolutely anything else you'd like to raise. More details will follow next term.

There are so many events in an academic year, it would be inappropriate for me to single out any for special mention. However, I would like to take the opportunity to wish all our Year 6 pupils, and their families, great success for the future. We hope Ickleford Primary School has prepared them well for their next steps in education, and I am confident they will continue to flourish and will look back on their time here with happy memories.

With best wishes for a good summer break.

Miles Maxwell,
Chair of Governors