Ickleford Primary School

Shared Values · Shared Aspirations · Shared Achievements

July 2026

Dear Parent/ Carer,

As we end another academic year, I would like to update you on some key points of school life from the governors' perspective.

We spent the day in school on 8th July: some of us spoke with School Council, some asked Y6 pupils for their perspective on the school, and we all visited the classes to see the school in action. There were too many highlights to share here, but all of us were impressed – as always – with the confidence and eloquence with which your children engaged with us, and their happiness along with a strong sense of belonging to the Ickleford School community.

Hopefully most of you will have had your own opportunity to witness school life via, for example, class assemblies, Sports Day, 'Pop-in-and-read' sessions in Reception and KS1, and that you will concur with the above.

We are all frustrated in the delay in issuing the results of many of the formal assessments (e.g. SATS), but I am confident that these will continue to show that pupils at Ickleford Primary obtain strong results across the board.

Everything that is achieved is the result of teamwork – children, parents, staff and governors all working together to ensure a great, well-rounded education for our pupils. Thank you for all you do to enable this.

The intense heat over the past weeks has been challenging for everyone, and I know from the feedback that I've seen that you are grateful for everything staff have done to keep school open and the children safe. We know that extreme heat is very likely to be an increasingly common occurrence so school leaders and governors will be looking at options to mitigate future events. You will not need to be told that this won't be a quick-fix, and any infrastructure changes can only be done gradually and when finances allow.

We await our Ofsted inspection with quiet confidence. You will know from other communications from the school that there is a new framework against which we will be assessed, and the one-word categorisation no longer exists. I am a very competitive person, and it offends me that it is virtually impossible for a single-form entry primary school such as ours to attain the 'exceptional' rating in any category. I'm sure many of you will share that frustration.

Finally, I would like to take the opportunity to wish all our Year 6 pupils, and their families, great success for the future. I am sure that Ickleford Primary School has

prepared them well for their next steps in education, and that they will continue to flourish. I hope they will look back on their time here with happy memories.

With best wishes for a good summer break.

Miles Maxwell,
Chair of Governors