



Great Alne Primary School  
School Road  
Great Alne  
Nr Alcester  
Warwickshire  
B49 6HQ



Dear Parents,

It has been a busy and eventful term, especially as for the first time in years we were closed because of snow! The decision to close is one of the most difficult to take, especially as hailing from the North I am used to much worse conditions. I even have a vague recollection of my father digging us out of the house through the windows, when I was very small!

On behalf of everyone in school I want to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Dates for your diaries:

Monday 8th January 2018 -Back to school  
Thursday 11th January—Choir at Young Voices  
Friday 16th February—Sharing Assembly@2.30pm  
w/b Monday 19th February -Half term  
Monday 26th February -Back to school  
Thursday 15th March —**Parents' Evening**  
Friday 16th March-FOS Easter Disco  
Monday 19th March -**Parents' Evening**  
Saturday 24th March -FOS Easter Fair  
Monday 26th March \_Music Assembly

Overleaf is a small selection of photographs from the Reception and KS1 concert and some Governor news.





Line dancers perform



The funky camels!





Mary and Joseph

Ballet dancing Angels





A mother comforts her child



Follow the Star!



The innkeepers get ready for their tango!



The hosts announce the next act.



Our enthusiastic announcer!

#### Governor News

As you are aware, Emma and I became co chairs in September and Julie, vice chair of the Governing Body while continuing in her role as Safeguarding Governor. We have decided to reinstate the Governor newsletter alongside Mrs Hendrie's and Friends of School updates. We hope, from this, you will have more insight into the work of the governors within school.

On behalf of all the Governors Emma, Julie and I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Vicky Randall

#### Parent/Carer Questionnaire Summer 2017

The school and governors would like to thank all families that responded to the parent/carers questionnaire in the Summer term of 2017, we had 43 responses in total. Responses were analysed and it was pleasing to find that strengths of the school were around: pupil safety, enjoyment and wellbeing; and parents finding the school to be a warm, welcoming place where staff are approachable to parents and carers.

It was lovely to receive so many positive comments from parents and carers, recognising the school to be a: *'lovely, caring school community'*, where children are encouraged to: *'understand how to care and look after one another'*. We further appreciated the positive comments relating to the school staff, who were described as being: *'excellent, friendly, approachable staff who are easy to communicate with'*, and *'dedicated to ensuring that children make progress'*.

Parents/Carers highlighted in the questionnaire their concerns about the need for a school crossing warden. **Unfortunately, despite the school's best advertising efforts, it took a while** for Warwickshire County Council to recruit a suitable candidate for this position. Fortunately, **Mr Parker was appointed as the school's road crossing warden during this term and started his role at the beginning of November.**

A further issue that parents/carers identified as an area for the school to improve was **communication. It was highlighted that sometimes parents/carers don't receive enough advance warning of key events, and that also there can be some difficulty in trying to make contact with the school via telephone.** In response to this, the school phone is now wireless and can be accessed outside of the school office, this means that Mrs Clarke can now answer the phone from wherever she is in the school building. It would be helpful to point out here, that if you find yourself waiting outside the school door because there is nobody in the **school offices, you can call the school's telephone number and a member of school staff will come and let you in.** In relation to parents/carers concerns about communication relating to **upcoming events, the school will endeavor to set 'key dates' in advance, and we are working towards ensuring that, in addition to the usual method of communication about events - parent-mail, these dates are updated regularly on the school's website. Both key dates for school and 'Friends' events can be found on the website: <http://www.greatalprimary.org> under the 'what's on' tab. You will be pleased to hear that there is a new website under progress for school, which is due to go live in Spring 2018.** We believe that once the new website is established, we will be able to communicate all events more effectively using this more compatible tool.

The Governors and school staff will continue to seek the views of parents/carers to ensure that all stakeholders are collaborating effectively for the best possible outcomes for our school.

### Finance Committee

The Finance committee has met each half term, and has recently been appointed a new finance officer by the Local Authority.

Their careful management of the budget in conjunction with the school has secured the finances for a part time year 5 teacher until July 2018. This offers Mrs Banks and Mrs Brereton the opportunity to work a more tailored timetable for the year 6's as we approach SATs. Being by far the largest class in the school, this is a fantastic opportunity that the finance committee has helped to facilitate this year.

We are delighted to announce that Mrs Louise Watt will be our new Y5 part time teacher from January.

### Health and Safety Committee

The Health and Safety Committee is made up from 3 governors and we meet termly. The main responsibilities of this committee are to inspect the premises and grounds of the school, monitor and recommend policies in relation to health and safety, ensure risks assessments are completed and carry out any other premises related tasks. This term, the governors have reviewed their annual walk around inspection action points, checked all logs are up to date and completed volunteer interviews (in line with safer recruitment/safeguarding procedures) at the beginning of term. In addition to this, we are pleased to say that we will be getting a new school roof and perimeter fencing at some point in the new year and applications have gone out to tender for the work. We have also had a new fire alarm system installed.



## Curriculum Committee

The Curriculum Committee have met twice this term. We have reviewed the **school's attainment and progress data; established a revised procedure for** Governors to report their findings from school visits and carried out initial **monitoring of progress towards the intended outcomes of the school's Learning Improvement Plan 2017-18.**

The Learning Improvement Plan 2017-18 has the following three identified priorities:

1. To further develop the teaching of reading to improve pupil outcomes.
2. To continue to raise standards in Maths with a particular focus on the development of problem solving.
3. Improve teaching and learning using ICT.

For each Learning Improvement Plan (LIP) priority area, there are at least two assigned Governors who are responsible for the monitoring of progress towards the desired outcomes, as identified in the LIP. All Governors have carried out their initial school visits this term, and we will carry out further visits in the Spring and Summer terms of 2018.

# Merry Christmas



**Season's greetings**

Lesley E Hendrie