



PARKLANDS COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Miss Charlotte Angeli

Monday 20th November 2023

Letter to parents and carers from the Governors

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are well and have had a positive start to the academic year.

The governors of the school are here to serve you as parents and carers to ensure the highest possible standard of education, so that all our children can prosper and thrive.

Senior Leadership Team

We were privileged that Miss Charlotte Angeli, joined us at the start of this term, bringing enormous capability as an experienced head teacher. We are pleased that Miss Angeli will be joined in January by an equally experienced colleague as her deputy.

At Parklands we all want our children to "Be the best you can be".

To achieve this our curriculum is categorized into four key areas, known as Parklands Pillars. The staff, strongly supported by the governors, will ensure an *excellent education*, so that our children will be *healthy learners, community minded* and *ready for the future*.

Governors are pleased with the progress being made in the core subjects of Mathematics, English and Science, all led by teachers, who are passionate about their subject and keen to raise standards. Governors find that other subjects such as History, Geography, PE, PSHE, are all taught well across the school. We know that no teachers are complacent, and all are working to ever increase their teaching. Governors have recently reviewed in depth the teaching for our children with additional needs and were impressed with the dedication by the teachers to deliver such an excellent standard.

Estate and Premises

Creating a healthy, safe and compliant working environment for children, staff and visitors is of paramount importance for governors.

Over the past 15 months governors have focused on a number of key areas, for example:

- Supporting the school's engagement with the local authority and concluding the legacy build issues from when the school expanded several years ago, e.g.
 - The disabled call point at the top of the stairs in the extension is now approved as fully functional.
 - Over October half-term work was completed on fire-stopping and are awaiting final approval on full compliance.
 - Ground floor windows have been re-enforced to meet safety standards.
- Reviewing and update the existing processes
 - Governors have reviewed the school's internal processes so that they now align with the "Good Estate Management for Schools" documents produced by the Department for Education.
- Cooling of the extension building
 - Governors have agreed to go out to tender for a mechanical cooling system. We are finalising the programme; the works are extensive and will need to be carefully programmed not to impact the school working day so we expect the majority of the work to be carried out over half terms and Easter – however we are hopeful that some of the system will be up and running for Summer 2024.
- Thank you to all parents, children and staff who came into school on weekends for Ground Force days, which we held last year and again last month, when we cleared up and enhanced the forest and pond areas.

Catchment areas

You will have seen that there are early draft proposals to change the catchment areas of the schools with the potential move of Jessie Younghusband Primary School to a new building on neighbouring Minerva Heights. This would allow St Anthony's Special School to expand onto Jessie Younghusband's site allowing for 50+ much needed extra places for children with additional needs.

Governors have an open mind on this proposal, and it is important to listen to the views of parents/carers, staff and the wider community, when the council consults more widely.

As chair of governors, I am often in school meeting staff and the head teacher, visiting classes, and I make a point of standing at the school gate from time to time. Please feel free to contact me through the office. I look forward to meeting you then.

Kind Regards,

David Millican, Chair of Governors