



25<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Welcome back to the new academic year and to our new families joining Chandag Infant School this year.**

It goes without saying that 2020 has been a very strange year with demands and experiences that I'm sure none of us thought we would ever encounter. But as we enter the new school year, we have seen the resilience of the children as they finally return to school buildings. Their adaptability through this period is evidence of the work that parents and carers do every day (and in such extraordinary circumstances!) and I think a further reflection of the focus that Chandag Infant School puts on developing the whole child, for example through growth mindset.

### **Thank you to the Chandag Infant Team!**

Before describing a little about what governors do, I would like to formally thank all of the teaching and support staff at Chandag Infant School, and the support they have received from the Wellsway Multi-Academy Trust (MAT), which the school is part of. I know it's not been perfect every time, but none of us are, especially in the current very changeable circumstances and the whole team has worked incredibly hard for the benefit of all the children. Thinking back, there was the enormous effort to send children home with work and resources in March and then continue to set and mark work over Seesaw. Behind the scenes, there has been a significant amount of planning, moving classrooms around to meet public health requirements and completion of risk assessments, as well as implementing suitable mitigations for these risks.

And then there are the things that the team won't tell you about: delivering books, equipment and food parcels to those that need it most before the government response was fully underway, and the phone calls to check on children and families' welfare and respond to many queries and requests for help. There have been many long hours and holidays not taken but it's got us to where we are today, with the school fully open and the children back in face to face education. And a further positive: perhaps we all recognise a little bit more of what schools and teachers do! So on behalf of all the governors, a big thank you to the Chandag Infant Team!

### **About governors**

As governors, we are all volunteers from families at the school, across the community and teaching staff. We are here to support and challenge the school to ensure that every child

receives the best education possible and that all children make good progress to be the best that they can be.

I was elected as Chair of Governors last year but have been a governor for five years before this. I work as a manager in the NHS so I have lots of experience of promoting high quality within a tight budget and more recently of the wider impact of COVID-19. I hope this experience will help to support the school to be the best that it can be. I am joined by:

Stuart McManus

Andrew Muncer

Simon Butler

Vicki Bowery

Sarah Church

Kerrie Willington (Staff governor & Deputy head)

Claire Gurnsey (Staff governor)

Annie Smart (Staff governor & Headteacher)

### **Considering becoming a governor?**

We have a great team of governors, but always happy to hear from others who would like to join us – we currently have vacancies. You don't need any particular experience, but we would like to hear from anyone that has a real passion for helping the school to excel. If you are interested in becoming a governor or would like to find out more, you can email [clerktogovernors@chandaginfantschool.org.uk](mailto:clerktogovernors@chandaginfantschool.org.uk) or let me know if you have any questions. If you would like to find out more about what governors do, there is more detail on the school website (<https://www.chandaginfantschool.org.uk/our-school/#governors-page>).

### **What governors have been doing :**

Whether you're interested in become a governor or not, I would like to give you a flavour of what we do. Our meetings are now virtual, but usually we meet every term and receive updates from the school, including performance and attendance data, assurance on safeguarding and currently on COVID-19 processes.

We were expecting a visit from Ofsted last academic year but as this didn't happen, we anticipate it may happen in an alternative (COVID-safe) format this year and we're looking forward to meeting the inspectors and telling them about life at Chandag Infant School.

If you have any comments or questions for Governors, please contact me by email or call the school office.

Best Wishes



Catherine Phillips

Chair of Governors, Chandag Infant School

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