



CHAIR OF GOVERNORS' LETTER TO PARENTS – JULY 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

It doesn't seem possible that a whole year has passed and now here we are looking back at the end of what has been an amazing year at Norton C.P. School.

As Chair of the Governing Body I have been hugely impressed with the many and varied opportunities which have been on offer to the children, both in and out of the classrooms. Led by Mrs Parker we continue to have a staff team who are creative and enterprising and I firmly believe that the continued success of our school is a clear reflection of the hard work of all our staff, in whatever role they play within our school community.



The expectations that we now have of our children rise year on year and the demands on the staff continue to increase. We are determined to provide for every child at Norton so that they are given the encouragement and support to excel in everything that they do. These efforts have resulted in very pleasing results in the external assessments the children do in Year 2 and Year 6. The Governors would like to praise all our children for their positive attitudes and excellent behaviour this year. They are a real credit to the school, to parents and to the teachers.



The Governing Body will continue to work closely to support Mrs Parker and all the Staff in order that we are ready to deal with the educational world that will exist in the future.

So what do Governors do? Governors get on and do things which you most probably don't realise happen: ensure health and safety and safeguarding provision are of the best ; undertake finance checks to ensure accountability; analyse pupils' progress through the school; keep tabs on projects within the school; build relationships with staff and pupils through meetings and visits to lessons; support and challenge the Head teacher and the Senior Leadership Team in a positive way; make sure that school policies are up-to-date and are part of the culture of Norton. The list goes on but we enjoy what we do and are proud to be part of the Norton School community. Our present governors have, between them, a wide range of skills and interests which they put to best use for the school. Governors might work largely in the background but we are committed to supporting the Head, the staff, the pupils and you, our parents, in every way we can.



Due to its popularity and the huge increase in pupil numbers over the last 5 years, the school on the Grove Street site was bursting at the seams. Our new site in Langton Road has provided much needed additional space enabling the classes to remain a reasonable size. The changeover went really smoothly, thanks to the efforts of the staff and despite some initial building snags, some of which are still awaiting attention, the new term started extremely well. The governors would like to thank you for your understanding of any hitches whilst you got used to the changes.



The school also appreciates the many positive comments parents have given in our recent questionnaire about the extended site. Here are a few:

- There is less congestion at both sites when delivering and collecting kids.
- Lunchtimes have improved as there is not such a rush and crush to get the children through.
- Staggered start and finish times mean I can collect both my children easily.
- The 'Walking Bus' works really well.
- Years 5 & 6 feel more grown up and this helps them in the transition to secondary school.
- There are fewer cars at dropping off times.
- School traffic has improved but there is still some thoughtless parking.
- There is so much more space on both sites.

We realise that it has not been possible to use the field at the Langton site as the grass needs to bed in – and the recent hot dry weather hasn't helped. However there is an upside to this, one parent was delighted that, because the children can't play football on the field, her child's shoes have lasted a full school year for the first time ever! The roof at Grove Street has also been given some much needed replacement and repair. The company undertaking the work have been blessed with good weather and cracked on a pace. It will soon be finished and completely watertight!!

At the end of this summer term we say thank you and good luck to two members of our teaching staff who are sadly leaving us. Mrs. Boynton has been at Norton for 32 years and is now hanging up her teaching hat to take up a much deserved retirement. Mrs Dambrauskas is transferring to a school in York, where she and her young family live. Both teachers have made significant contributions to the school. I worked out that Mrs Boynton, teaching an average of 30 children a year in her time at our school, has directly touched the lives of 960 – not a bad record!



The Governing Body **"thank"** each of you and wish you every happiness and success in all that you do in the future.

**GOOD
BYE &
GOOD
LUCK!**

We say a fond farewell to all our Year 6 Pupils. Behind you are all your memories of your time at Norton C.P. School; before you are the opportunities to fulfill your dreams; within each one of you is all you need to succeed. We wish you every happiness as you continue on the road to learn.

And finally a very special thank you to all our parents and carers who entrust your children to our care. I do hope that you all enjoy the summer break, if travelling – keep safe and let's hope for a sunny summer that will ensure we are rested and ready for what the next school year may bring.



With all good wishes

Linda McCarthy

Chair of Governors

