

Dear Parent/Carer

Let me be the first to welcome you and your children back for the summer term, although the weather gives no indication of sunny skies as yet, and I suspect that many will be hanging on to their winter uniform for a little longer!

We wanted to give you an update on the governing body, the work we have been doing and some changes in personnel.

Over the last two terms we have been working closely with Ms Jarman and her staff team to ensure continued school improvement. Governors are monitoring the school's improvement plan in working parties attached to each of the four key areas: Leadership and Management, Standards and Assessment, Teaching and Learning and Behaviour and Safety. We are also closely involved in setting and monitoring the budget and in ensuring that the performance management of staff is carried out to a high standard. Sometimes we even get to meet some of the children and talk to them about their learning!

We have welcomed a new co-opted governor this year. Jessica Bentley has a working background in coaching and mentoring, and is a welcome addition to the Standards & Curriculum committee.

We are saying goodbye to two of our parent governors this term. Rachel Mather is one of our longest serving governors and has made a huge contribution to the governing body, both as a parent and as a teaching professional. Those of you with children in EY and KS1 will have seen that Rachel is being increasingly employed as an excellent supply teacher, and because of this she has decided to step down as parent governor. We will miss her contribution, and her hospitality; much of the preparation work for the HT recruitment process was fuelled by coffee and cake in Rachel's kitchen. We are also losing Steve Ramsey, our most recently elected parent governor, whose change in work circumstances have made it increasingly difficult for him to attend governing body meetings. In the short time he has been a governor he has made a significant contribution, particularly in the areas of Premises and Health and Safety. We will miss them both, and wish them well in their respective career developments.

The school will be holding parent governor elections shortly to elect replacements. Any parent can put themselves forward for these positions, but nominations from parents with a teaching background or expertise in premises or health and safety matters would be particularly welcome as we would like to replace Rachel and Steve 'like for like' if at all possible. If you are interested, but are uncertain of what might be involved in the role, please feel free to contact me via email:

[chair@manorfields.herts.sch.uk](mailto:chair@manorfields.herts.sch.uk)

Alternatively, you could visit it National Governors' Association website for an overview of what the role involves.

With best wishes for a happy and successful term

Ali Mansfield

On behalf of the Governors of Manor Fields School