



# Chair of Governor's Report

## Summer 2011

Dear Parents and Carers,

One afternoon, just before half-term, I was sitting in the school library, reading through papers for another meeting when I was struck by what was going on around. There was classical music coming from Courtauld class, a yoga session in the hall, two PE sessions going on outside (one on the top play ground and one on the bottom) and a small group of children working with a learning support assistant at one of the tables next to me. Everything was calm, focused and being done with purpose and I wondered just how many parents realise what happens in school in the course of a week. If your child is anything like mine, when asked "What did you do at school today?" you get the stock answers of either "I can't remember" or "Not much".

Whilst the children are facing a really full term this summer; sports events, trips out, swimming most days and the school production, as well as the "usual" stuff of the curriculum – for teaching staff and Governors the focus is on "performance and outcomes". Evaluating the children's academic progress for the year against the targets the school has set for its self, as well as those set by the County and, ultimately, via Ofsted, the Government.

Ms Trappitt together with Senior Leaders look at individual, class and key stage progress against the expected achievements of pupils and feed this in to the planning for next year which is set out in the School Improvement Plan. The outcomes are reported and discussed with Governors and the School Improvement Partner (an external adviser who makes termly visits). Governors who have specific responsibility for a curriculum area, ie. maths, literacy etc also meet with subject leaders this term to review and update their element of the curriculum plan. (If you're interested, the School Improvement Plan is available on the St Andrew's Website under the curriculum tag.) You may wonder why I'm banging on about such a seemingly tedious part of school life – but this process effects every child in the school. It drives what the children learn and how best each child can be supported to gain their full potential.

The Senior Leadership Team has been looking at what provides our pupils with the best primary start both within and outside school and discussing this with Governors through their various meetings. External evidence, backed up with our own data, points to reading as being THE key skill in kick starting a pupil's potential. Confident reading not only enables children to get enjoyment from books and story writing but helps them to fully access all subjects in Key Stage 2 and further down the line at secondary school. The impact of reading daily with your child can't be underestimated and it's for this reason that the school is planning a termly literacy event; encouraging reading, story-telling and writing through a series activities, which we hope parent's will support. (There's further information about reading; including downloadable letters and sounds for KS1 children on the website under the "parent's" tag.)

Please don't forget that the second Parent's Forum meeting is planned for Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm at the White Hart. It's hoped that the time (and venue!) will encourage a large turnout and is an opportunity for parents to share any ideas or thoughts they have about the way things are done in school! Governors felt that the last meeting was very successful and many of the issues discussed have been acted upon. If you wish to have anything added to the agenda or would just like to make a general comment about the school there is a Parent's Forum letterbox in the Reception Area – we really want the meeting to be "parent led"! Obviously any issues concerning individual children should be discussed with your child's class teacher in the usual way.

Your sincerely

Becky Poynter,  
Chair of Governors.