

Stanbridge Lower School



CHAIR OF GOVERNORS LETTER TO PARENTS AUTUMN 2020

Dear Parents

Allow me to introduce myself: my name is Christine Payne and earlier this year I became Chair of Governors replacing John Symonds who retired to Norfolk and is a very hard act to follow.

I have been involved with Stanbridge School for many years and my late husband was the School Surveyor until his death in April 2011. My Vice Chairman is Veronica Clarke a retired teacher who has served on the Governing Body for many years and has a wealth of information so I am well supported.

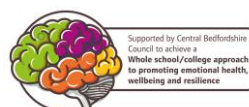
Before the start of this term I came into school, with Rosemary's permission, and was amazed by the steps taken to put in place all the requirements for Covid protection. The efforts of the teaching and ancillary staff were very impressive and form teachers had gone to great lengths to create stimulating and innovative areas in which to teach. Throughout lockdown staff continued to welcome children of key workers and steps were taken to provide meals where required. Rosemary had to self-isolate and worked from home but was constantly in touch with the school.

The following are activities and events that have taken place throughout the year;

- The PTFA have renovated the Environmental Area now known as The Woodland Garden installing new seating, a wildflower garden, bug hotels and bird houses encouraging children to relate to nature.
- The Reception Classroom and Office were redecorated during the summer holidays.
- With regard to curriculum and learning Miss Hughes has introduced Hygge approach to learning for Reception: this is a Danish system producing a calm accessible area basically bringing outside learning inside.



"We believe in our children"



Supported by Central Bedfordshire Council to achieve a Whole school/college approach to promoting emotional health, wellbeing and resilience

- At the beginning of the academic year the School used its Formula Capital allocation to update all laptops being used productively with children developing understanding of coding plus cross curriculum work I various topics.
- Governors have overseen the development of the whole curriculum mapped over all year groups showing progression and continuity in learning and this can be viewed on the school website.
- The “catch-up funding” allocation is to provide catch up lessons for those children with gaps in their learning due to the school and closure and Mrs Forbes is leading these sessions in school.
- The Reception Class has a place on the Nuffield Early Language Intervention developing communication and language skills.
- A risk assessment was in place for the return of pupils in September.

We have two new Governors – Dr Lee Mitchell and Mr Paul Horne but we are saying goodbye to Ian Wilkins who after 13 years at Stanbridge is taking up a position that offers new challenges. We all wish him well and thank him for his commitment over the years.

2020 has been a difficult and frustrating year for all of us but with the prospect of three vaccines and the population following the rules we should hopefully look forward to better times.

The Governors and I wish you all a Happy Christmas and a much better New Year.

Christine Payne
Chair of Governors



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