



20<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the half way point of the academic year, I thought I would write to you and bring you up to speed with all that has been happening behind the scenes with the school's Governing Board.

At the start of 2021 we began to consider what our future management strategy for the school should look like and to consider all of the alternative options that might benefit us. Through that work we identified the possibility of joining a Multi Academy Trust as the preferred option and decided, having looked at all of the MATs in the local area, that Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust (DMAT) offered the best fit for us as a small rural school. This term we have initiated a 'Management Partnership' with DMAT so that we can develop a really good understanding of how they work, if we are a good fit together and whether it will bring real and sustainable benefit to the school. These partnerships are often described as a 'try before you buy' and this will run for at least the rest of this academic year.

The work of the Governing Board within the school takes place largely behind the scenes; good Governance should be virtually invisible to pupils and their families. We worked hard to develop the After School Club concept to give the school a full wraparound care provision for the first time. This is a really vital component of education for so many families with working parents. It got off to a fantastic start in January and we hope it will offer essential support to many of our pupil's families.

The industry and output of Mrs. Davies and the school staff this year has been quite simply spectacular. The quality of the school curriculum, the teaching and the learning environment have all been on a steep improvement path and the feedback we are getting from external visitors has been really positive. For those of you that have been into the school this term I hope you noticed how much clearer the classrooms are, making best use of the available space and the celebratory work boards on the walls picking up on the 'I am a Scientist / Author / Geographer' themes in the curriculum.

There is still plenty to consider and do both at ground level within the classroom and steering the school within an ever changing strategic landscape. We await the publication of the 2022 Education White Paper which will bring more change into the sector and require the leadership team to continue to navigate the school to deliver the best possible outcomes for all of our pupils. We are expecting a stronger push from the Department for Education for all schools to look at joining an academy so we are ahead of the game in that regard. I will update you all in the first half of the summer term with our thinking towards joining DMAT in the 2022/23 academic year.

May I thank you all for your continued support and wish you all a relaxing half term break. My fellow Governors and I are all looking forward to seeing the pupils continue making great progress at our fabulous school when we resume.

Yours sincerely,

David Pestrige  
Chair of Governors