



**WHERE WE ARE ALL VIPS
VALUED, INSPIRED,
PROGRESSING, SECURE.**

**Letter to parents of children at Batchley First School and Nursery from the
Chair of the school Governing Board**

July 2021

Dear Parents

What a year this has been for everyone in the Batchley School Family! Who could have known at the beginning of the year how many times we would hear and use words like, 'bubbles, sanitiser, home schooling, masks, social distancing, and self-isolating'? But we have got through it and coped with the different and often difficult ways of 'doing school'. Thank you so much for your patience, understanding, resilience and kindness throughout the year.

Recently at our final Full Governing Board meeting of the school year the governors recognised what a very difficult year it's been for Mrs Downes to take over the leadership of the school and recorded their thanks to her and Mrs Smith for all their amazing and unstinting hard work in dealing with all the restrictions and regulations around the Covid-19 crisis and yet still managing to encourage and inspire staff and children with their teaching and learning and personal well-being – and all with a smile! They and the staff have made great efforts to make learning as normal as possible in abnormal times. Governors expressed their appreciation by sending end of term 'thank you' cards to the classes they have been supporting throughout the year.

The pandemic restrictions have affected the way the governing board has been able to function. Most of our meetings have been held online via Microsoft Teams and we have been unable to get involved with class and school work and events in the ways we would normally expect to do. Suitably masked however, I have been able to meet regularly with the senior leadership team and I have been very impressed with what I've seen – happy, hard-working, polite and cheerful children; staff determined to design and deliver the curriculum in creative ways to enhance and encourage learning; attractive improvements to the school environment both inside and outside; books displayed everywhere around the school to encourage reading for both pleasure and information and displays designed to encourage an interest and pride in the work of the school.

So on behalf of the governing board I want to thank you and everyone who is part of the Batchley First School and Nursery family and community for all you have done to make this school year as good as it has been. Everyone deserves a rest and a break. I hope you and your family are able to enjoy some quality time together during the holiday. I look forward to September and hope that the easing of restrictions will enable the governors to meet and engage with you more personally next year – watch this space!

Mercia Lee