14 July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

As the school year draws to a close, I wanted to write to you all to introduce myself as the new chair of governors for your school and to thank you for everything you have done during what has been a very difficult year. I am delighted to have been appointed to this important post and I will do my very best to ensure that the school is doing all that it can to support your children’s learning. It has done so extremely well in the past, and I am very confident that it will continue to do so in the future.

On behalf of the whole governing body, I would like to thank you for the amazing efforts you have made and how well you have co-operated with the school through the massive uncertainties it and you have faced with lockdowns and bubbles, home learning and staggered entry and exit times. Mrs Clayton has kept governors up to date with how well you have engaged with the school every step of the way. We fully acknowledge the extreme pressures you have all been under trying to juggle the needs of the children with the pressures and demands of your own work.

It is often in times of great challenge that the true nature of a school is seen. This has been very evident at Gillibrand in the past year, when the school’s values were kept to the fore during the uncertainty it faced. One of the great strengths of our school is its creative and imaginate approach to helping the children learn. You only need to look at the school’s website and Twitter posts to get a feel for the amazing wealth of exciting experiences the children get at Gillibrand, and the sheer pleasure they get from participating in them.

I am sure you will want to join with me in passing on our appreciation to Mrs Clayton and to all the school staff for their efforts during this most challenging of times. They have worked extremely hard to keep your children safe and learning both at school and at home. They also made sure that everything possible was put in place to support the children on their return to school. As a result, gaps in learning are already being filled, and the children’s personal social and emotional skills, and their wellbeing, continue to be fostered extremely well. There are massive challenges ahead but we are confident that, together with yourselves, the school will meet them and the future will be brighter. You can rest assured that your children are in safe hands.

Hopefully, the start of the new school year in September will bring stability and excitement back for everyone. I wish you all a very pleasant summer and I hope to have the opportunity to meet with some of you as the new term moves on.

Best wishes to all

Doris Bell

Chair of governors