



**JUNIOR SCHOOL**

*Together we make a difference*

# Dobcroft Junior School

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Dear Parent/Carer

As we reach the end of another jam-packed year at Dobcroft, I would like to take a few moments to thank you for your contributions over the last 12 months and ask for your assistance going forwards.

Our children have excelled themselves this year. From a record haul of trophies at cross country to the largest number of pupils ever to take part in Young Voices, action packed residentials, outstanding end of term performances by Y4 and Y6 and all the other things too numerous to mention, the children continue to amaze us. And, of course, without the effort and commitment of the staff and the continued support of you all none of this would be possible. Thank you on behalf of the Governors.

Finance continues to be a struggle. However, despite receiving the lowest per head funding of any Junior school in Sheffield, we have been able to improve our buildings and replace our mobile classrooms this year. Going forwards we will continue to make improvements to the facilities in school where we are able - this is a key part of our new school strategy alongside a focus on wellbeing of pupils and staff, continuing to develop a rich and broad curriculum that is accessible to all pupils, encouraging and supporting our staff to be the best they can and improving how we engage with you. Thank you to those of you who responded to our request for feedback earlier this term. This was invaluable in informing our priorities. The strategy has now been approved by the governing body and will be published on the school website shortly.

Looking forwards to next year, I am pleased to welcome our new Y3 parents and carers and to let all parents and carers know that we are currently looking for parents or carers to join the Governing Board as Parent Governors.

The Governing Board is made up of volunteers who give their time to fulfil three key functions. It formulates the vision and strategic direction of the school, it works with the Headteacher and staff in driving up school and pupil performance, and it makes sure that resources are used well to give every child at Dobcroft Junior School the best possible education.

Being a governor is a good opportunity to get more involved with the life of the school, to learn how the school is managed, and contribute to the strategic direction of the school. You do not need any formal qualifications and we do provide training. The term of office is four years but Governors can step down before their term of office is complete. You would be expected to attend 3 evening meetings each term and to take on additional roles, such as a Link Governor (perhaps focussed on a specific subject), or monitoring one of the key focus areas we have (e.g. finance, pupil progress, SEND, etc.). We therefore do require some level of commitment from all Governors. The work is, however, extremely rewarding.

As this role is for a Parent Governor, we welcome applications from all parents and carers. We are particularly seeking to broaden the legal and SEND knowledge within the governing body and are keen to ensure that the makeup of the governing body reflects the diversity of our school community. If we receive more applications than there are spaces, then we will hold an election.

If you are interested please write to me with a short note outlining why you would like to be a governor, by e-mail ([chair@dobcroft-jun.sheffield.sch.uk](mailto:chair@dobcroft-jun.sheffield.sch.uk)) or by letter to the school, clearly marked for my attention. The closing date for applications to be received is 13<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

If you would like to find out more before applying, please do not hesitate to contact me by e-mail to arrange an informal discussion, or contact any of our governors.

Thank you again for your ongoing support.

Ian Besford  
Chair of Governors

