



JUNIOR SCHOOL

Together we make a difference

Dobcroft Junior School

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Dear Parent/Carers

Following my letter just before the summer break, I am writing to update you on our progress in filling the vacant parent governor spaces on the governing body and also the recent changes to the Ofsted Inspection Framework.

New Parent Governors

I am pleased to let you know that we have three new parents who have joined the governing body:

Michelle Laws is a parent to a child in Y3. She is taking up the role of safeguarding governor drawing on her extensive career and voluntary experience in this area.

Paul Shawley has a son in Y3 and brings substantial practical and professional experience in governance and data interrogation and analysis from his career in the IT service sector. Paul has volunteered to take on the role of Sex and Relationship Education governor, a key role as we develop our new curriculum in line with the Department for Education statutory guidance.

Geoff Mellor is a former chair of the governing body with a long-standing relationship with the school and we are delighted that he is re-joining the governing body. He has significant experience of leadership from his career in finance and brings a strategic and forward-looking focus, and people management experience. Geoff will initially lead on ensuring our governance processes incorporate best practice.

Ofsted

It is 13 years since our school was inspected during which time the school has had 4 different headteachers and the Ofsted framework has changed several times. As some of you may be aware, Ofsted launched their latest Education Inspection Framework in September. This is a significant change from the previous framework with a shift away from focusing on results of assessments towards the quality of the curriculum and teaching. In addition the Government has announced its intention to remove the exemption from inspection for Outstanding rated schools. As one of the schools with the longest period since our last inspection, we are anticipating a visit from Ofsted in the not too distant future.

Despite the lack of a formal inspection, the school continually evaluates itself against the Ofsted criteria, and has regular external reviews from both independent advisors and our peer schools. We have recently completed this assessment against the new framework which indicates we are good in all areas with several areas of outstanding practice. We have a strong development plan in place to build on this to ensure we continue to improve. If you have any questions or concerns that you would like to raise, please do not hesitate to contact the school (enquiries@dobcroft-jun.sheffield.sch.uk) or the governors (governors@dobcroft-jun@sheffield.sch.uk).

Thank you again for your ongoing support.

Ian Besford, Chair of Governors

