



22nd January 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year to you all, from everybody on the Governing Body. Here's to a successful and exciting 2016!

As you may know, the Governing Body has seen a fair few changes over the past year or so. Three people have stepped down – Russell Hardman, Clive Phillips and Richard Neville – and we would like very much to thank them for their service to the school.

On the flip side, we have welcomed Nigel Milner and Philippa Key to the team, and they are already proving to be invaluable. It is my privilege to have taken over as Chair of Governors since last September and I am enjoying the role *hugely*, and am gradually getting to know the children, parents, carers and staff.

Thank you all so much for responding to the parent survey last November. Over two-thirds of you took the time to complete them, and the results were very interesting. There seemed to be a consensus on the things we were getting right, as well as on the areas we need to improve, and we'd like to share a few of these with you.

The school website was basically not used by anyone, let alone as an important source of information on topics such as 'Safeguarding' (keeping children safe – online and offline). Enormous effort has gone into transforming the website, and we'd encourage you to have a little explore of it (ashtonprimary.co.uk). It will continue to be updated and improved, and we're definitely open to suggestions if there's something you've spotted that we've missed.

Actually, keeping children safe online was another concern picked up from the survey, so in addition to the information added to the website, we'd like to invite you to either of two discussion sessions on safeguarding. **The first is only a few days away, on Monday 25th January at 3:30pm.** Staff will be here to watch the kids, if that helps. The second one will be at 7pm on Tuesday 9th February; hopefully you can make one of them.

Some of the feedback we received was about the quantity of homework, and how much it challenged the children. As a result, the way homework is planned and tailored to individuals is being reviewed.

Last, but not least, a significant number of parents and carers didn't notice the presence of governors, and weren't sure exactly why we were there. It is fair to say that you will have seen (and will see) a lot more of us in future!

Thank you all for reading, and we look forward to seeing you at one of the safeguarding sessions.

On behalf of the Governing Body,

Alex Rowe

Chair of Governors