



# *Brighstone C.E Aided Primary School*

*Head Teacher – Mrs. T. Fox*

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Dear Parents

What an exciting journey we have been on this year! There is so much to celebrate, and as we get to the end of term we can reflect that, whilst we all want to carry on ensuring Brighstone is the best school it can possibly be, we have come a long way. This is confirmed by both the Ofsted Section 8 report, which said senior leaders and governors are taking effective action to tackle the areas that required improvement, and also the Diocese report, which said that the distinctiveness and effectiveness of Brighstone CE Primary School as a Church of England school is Good.

We welcomed Mrs Fox as our new Head Teacher in September, along with teachers Mr Wilson, Mr Givens, Mrs Lincoln and Miss Peto. Together with all this change you also had a new Chair of Governors. Governors especially wish to thank Mrs Fox and each and every member of staff for their extraordinary hard work this year, which has enabled the school to move forward in such a positive way, and bring much needed stability.

Sadly of course we lost governors and staff too: Daphne Brooke-Smith as Chair of Governors and Sarah Pocock, Vice Chair; from the teaching staff Mrs Jones from Year 1 and now Mrs Pugh. We will miss them all and thank them and other support staff for all their hard work and dedication to Brighstone.

The children of course are at the heart of everything and they have developed and thrived; it is wonderful to see how enthusiastic and happy they are whether it is in the school nativity, the Easter service, the Beach Day, the school play and sports day, the Summer Sizzler and, even dare I say, Year 6 doing their SATS – congratulations to them all. We wish Year 6 the very best of luck for their onward transition into their secondary schools.

A big thank you too to the BSA. They have raised a staggering £5000 this year to help with school trips, other resources and enrichment activities. This reflects a great deal of work by some very dedicated parents, and I know they would always welcome extra pairs of hands!

Finally, I think many of you may wonder what we as Governors do! We are here to work with the Head Teacher and senior leaders to ensure the smooth and successful running of the school. We act as a 'Critical Friend', asking questions, helping make strategic decisions, and approve the school budget. We are here to help improve standards and monitor performance. In addition to the Finance Committee and Standards and Progress Committee, which meet termly, we also meet four times a year as a Full Governing Body.

This year for instance we have had to take some tough decisions in order to manage financial implications going forward. After very careful consideration and consultation, it has been decided to merge some classes in the afternoon. This will give the children access to a rich, varied and balanced curriculum for their creative topic lessons, and ensures they can continue to be taught in smaller classes which is one of the strengths of Brighstone.

Please do not hesitate to contact us via the Office if you wish to discuss anything to do with the school. Individual concerns should be addressed to the class teacher or head teacher. If you wish to know more about Governors, please check the school website.

With very best wishes for a wonderful summer holiday,

Didi Nicholson

Chair of Governors