

## **Holy Trinity CE (A) Primary School: Governor's Statement 2020-2021**

The School Governors will not need to point out that this has been a strange year. Lockdowns, home learning, bubbles, lateral flow tests and isolations are just some of the things that the children, their parents and their teachers have had to face. And, in retrospect, we, as Governors, are pleased to report that the school has faced them with ingenuity and fortitude.

### **Lockdowns and home learning**

During the periods of lockdown, the school staff have had to juggle the provision of home learning for the majority of children, and in-school teaching for the varying numbers of children, who for various reasons, could not be educated at home. Rather paradoxically this meant an increase in the teaching load, having to prepare and monitor the home learning, as well as supporting the children in school. That they succeeded very well in these tasks is born out by the feedback from parents in the form of parental surveys, and anecdotally from comments about Holy Trinity's teaching compared to elsewhere. School staff have been assiduous in monitoring their children's progress throughout these periods, with frequent parental telephone contact and sometimes home visits. This has all contributed to the impression that when the children returned to school, their 'educational loss' had not been all that great, and could be made up in the future. One gratifying result of these lockdown periods has been the generosity of the local community in donating computer equipment, so that no child would be without the means to receive the online learning. Also, donations of food, much of it via Holy Trinity Church, have helped struggling families through the pandemic.

### **Bubbles, tests and isolations**

The school has been relatively lucky in not having to isolate many children following their return to school. When a bubble had to isolate, the home learning system was activated smoothly, with the knowledge gained from the lockdown periods.

### **The School Environment**

Our ever generous PTA have allowed the school to build an outdoor classroom in the grounds, replacing the yurt/tent which had seen better days. This was finished in the autumn, having been built under the supervision of a parent/builder, and was then furnished, again with the help of the PTA. Special mention here of one of our Governors (in fact the vice chair) Nicola Brewerton who master minded the whole project. One of the results of disruption caused by the pandemic, is that the school has managed to save some money. The Head and the Bursar (with a bit of help from the Governor's Resources Committee) have come up with a cunning plan to replace the playground ship (which was removed last year) with a splendid new vessel. This will be built during the summer holidays, and should provide an excellent way to burn off any child's excess energy.

### **School People**

A school such as ours is only as good as its staff. As Governors we are tasked with monitoring how the school is run, and 'challenging' the head and the staff if we do not think that the school is working properly. I am happy to say that we have had to do no 'challenging' during this year. Mrs MacGregor, her Senior Leadership Team and all the staff have coped with these upsets and difficulties as, and when, they have arisen. It is, perhaps, invidious to pick out particular staff members, but our special thanks go to Mrs Howard for revitalising the Special Needs team, to the office staff for battling the virus to keep the engine room going, to Mr Cochran for looking after the grounds and to one of our own Governors, Father Michael, for being a voice of calm through it all. And finally, we as Governors, would like to thank all our parents and carers for their untiring help with the home learning of their children. All this has meant that our children have continued 'learning together with God's love'.

Simon Janvrin  
Chair of Governors July 2021