

Governors Newsletter

Spring Term 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

As January 1st wasn't officially recognised in England as New Year's Day until 1752 (we'd have had to wait until March 25th for the celebration before that) I'm unashamedly saying Happy New Year to all of you in the first newsletter of 2019. I hope you had an enjoyable break.

2018 was a landmark year for Clapham. In the summer we celebrated fantastic results by the children across the school in Early Years, Phonics, KS1 and KS2. Our first 'new' classroom in decades, the Mess, opened in Autumn and is already proving incredibly popular with the children and staff.

And then of course, in the last week of term we had our long-awaited visit from Ofsted. Being inspected whilst putting on the Nativity added an extra bit of complexity, but then we don't really do 'normal' days at Clapham, and I had total confidence that all of the staff would make sure the children and guests still enjoyed a wonderful couple of productions. The report certainly confirmed what we had all suspected for a while; our children are both happy in school with their broad, rich curriculum and show "exemplary" behaviour, that the school is proud of its parental involvement and links with the community, and last but not least, that the standard of teaching across the school is very high.

How high? Well, as you now know, high enough to warrant a second, longer, inspection to really dig down and uncover what I am confident will be outstanding levels of skill and professionalism amongst the staff. When this second inspection will be is a bit of a guessing game, but it is very likely to be before the end of the school year in July. All areas of the school will be under close scrutiny, and we can all have a part to play in showing the Inspectors why we think Clapham is outstanding.

For some time, we have had ongoing improvements to the outdoors area as an important part of Clapham's overall development. Obviously, resources are far from limitless, and so in the next few weeks the school will be looking for volunteers to help on a variety of schemes to improve the outdoor space. Please do look out for those requests and anything you can do to help would be hugely appreciated.

We also welcome our 2 new Parent Governors, Helen Twist and Jo Lally, to our Governing Board. My thanks to them, and to Caroline Kempner, for standing in the election last term. We have a busy few weeks ahead digesting the Ofsted report alongside our normal duties, so they will be straight into the action.

Enjoy the rest of the term, I look forward to seeing many of you in the weeks ahead.

Dan Johnston
Chair of Governors