

June 2021

Governor's Summer Newsletter

Dear all

What a pleasure to be able to sit down and write a newsletter that, when I look at my notes, is almost entirely made up of positive stories. After more than a year of restrictions, diktats, rules and rule changes, the sight and sound of the children in school enjoying the experience of learning together with their friends is just the tonic many of us needed.

Much of the narrative in the news about the impact of C-19 on schools revolves around how much "learning" pupils have missed. Clearly the children's exposure to the curriculum has been reduced during the periods of home learning, but the school's ongoing assessment of work have shown that the vast majority of our pupils are rapidly closing any gaps that may have developed, and this tight monitoring of all children's work has allowed the school to quickly and effectively put into place individual plans for pupils that do need extra help. Governors have already met with all staff to discuss these plans for all Subjects, and we are currently planning end of year meetings to assess the performance of school, which is looking very strong indeed.

Of course, the academic curriculum is only a part of what the whole Clapham Terrace team wants to give our pupils and I'm sure you are familiar with the pride the school takes in providing what we describe as an 'enriched' curriculum. I am firmly of the opinion that this enriched curriculum is now more important than ever for our children, it is all about sharing experiences of the wider world and enjoying those experiences with other children, in many cases the types of experiences that the recent restrictions prevented.

This provision is not cheap however, and I want to highlight the amazing work the HSA has continued to carry out. Many of the enriching experiences are directly paid for by the money they raise – Ricky's dancing lessons and the Artists we often see in school are just two examples – and it is astonishing to hear that the amount raised this year is actually higher than normal for the events that have run, such as the Great Clapham Run and the Break the Rules day. My thanks to all of you for making that happen - unfortunately the cancellation of the Summer Fair has meant we haven't benefited as we normally would from your enthusiastic support of the bar... It is also lovely to see the Junior Leadership Team involved in deciding how to spend the money, a multi-use play structure for the playground will soon be installed, demonstrating the responsibility the school likes to give to the pupils.

My thanks also to the staff for the huge range of clubs and activities that are available to the children – comparisons to other schools are never simple, but you can be sure that despite our small size, our pupils have access to a far wider range of these 'extra-curricular' events than at most local schools. This can-do attitude of the staff also extends to some of the activities you may be aware of over the next few weeks - Years 3, 4 and 6 have sleepovers planned, and I was delighted to hear that Y6 have a very exciting few days of leaving events arranged. Special Celebration Assemblies for each Year Group are also in the pipeline which will be a great opportunity to share the amazing work our children have produced this year. All of these are a direct result of the commitment and hard work of our teachers, TAs and support staff.

As you can see, our enriched curriculum is central to Clapham Terrace, and, I would argue is a vital part of the return to normality. I hope you can see that this would not be possible without your support, without the work of the HSA and without the commitment of our teachers, TAs and staff. I look forward to seeing many of you in school as we celebrate the achievements of all our pupils in this last half term of what I hope will be a unique year. Take care and stay safe.

Dan Johnston

Chair of Governors