



CLIFFE V.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL

MAIN STREET, CLIFFE, SELBY, NORTH YORKSHIRE, YO8 6NN

ADMIN @ CLIFFE.N-YORKS.SCH.UK

01757 638426

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Spring Term is now well underway and we as Governors are pleased to report that Cliffe School is, under the expert Leadership of Mr Blackwood, operating fully and providing a solidly good education and many exciting additional opportunities for its pupils.

We had our second Full Governing Body meeting of the year in school on Thursday 9th February. At the meeting we welcomed two new Governors - Cllr. Karl Arthur (Cliffe and North Duffield Division) and Howard Cross. Both Karl and Howard are members of the Mary Waud Trust and Howard is on the Parish Council. We are delighted that Karl and Howard have joined us as they come with expertise and experience which will enhance our skills as a Governing Body.

As always Mr Blackwood provided a detailed Headteachers Report to the Full Governing Body and our discussion focussed on this document. We discussed the achievement and progress of the pupils in each year group across the core subjects of Reading, Writing and Maths and Mr Blackwood outlined the actions being taken in school to accelerate progress where there are pockets of underachievement, particularly in Writing. We discussed the areas addressed in the School Development Plan and were impressed with the progress made particularly within the target area of pupil's mental health, sense of being safe in school and their confidence and resilience.

As Governors we have a duty to be aware of the school's provision for and the achievement and progress of vulnerable children and those with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND). As Governor with responsibility for SEND I had met with the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SENDCo) Co-ordinator Mr Blackwood earlier in the month and reported to the Full Governing Body that the school was providing well for the children with SEND and they were making good progress.

The Local Authority has recently undertaken a review of the school's Safeguarding procedures and found this to be good.

We were delighted to hear that Music tuition is so strong at Cliffe. Thanks to a generous contribution from the Mary Waud Trust all pupils receive a term of instrumental tuition and many pupils have individual /small group tuition paid for by parents/carers. Pupils in Year 4, 5 & 6 had recently been to perform at Young Voices in Sheffield which was a memorable occasion for them and their families. It is hoped to be able to take part in this unique experience again next year.

Sport is also strong at Cliffe with pupils working with external sports coaches both in school PE lessons and in a variety of after school clubs.

It was also delightful to hear that the school PTA is actively supporting the school and organising events which enhance the school's provision for its pupils. The Parish Council are also very supportive and with their help the school is going to improve the security of its fencing particularly around the front and Reception Class area.





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Last October we reported to parents and carers the difficulties we face in managing a very tight School Budget. We are pleased to report that for entry into Reception for September 2023 there are 19 children whose first choice is Cliffe! We hope to admit all of these children and this will go some way towards balancing the very small cohorts going through school and improves the financial situation slightly. We also hope to be able to attract a few pupils into the older classes throughout the year. As a result of this encouraging intake we have made the decision that there will be no changes to the school structure for September 2023 but we will be looking very carefully at the Budget Forecasts going forward as it is possible changes will have to be made in subsequent years. As indicated in our last letter in October 2022 we will let parents know of any changes we have to make to the school structure as soon as decisions are made.

We are in very difficult times at the moment with soaring energy and food costs. If parents/carers feel they are entitled to apply for their child/children to receive Free School Meals they can enquire in confidence with Mrs Stacey at the school office. It is very important that eligible parents take up this opportunity as soon as possible.

It has pointed out to us that there has been an increase in pupils having unauthorised absence during term time due to family holidays. Whilst we completely understand that this is sometimes unavoidable, we ask that parents think very seriously about the consequences of taking children out of school in term time. The school week for young children is very intense and they miss so much even if they are only absent for a few days and they often find it very hard to catch up both educationally and socially.

We as governors are acutely aware of the need to secure the future of the school and we continue to gather information about the possibility of Cliffe joining a suitable Multi Academy Trust sometime in the future. Were any changes to be proposed, parents and carers would of course be integral to the decisions made which would all be for the good of the school, its pupils and the community.

Governors reviewed and approved a number of school policies which included those covering Budget Management; Children with Health Needs who cannot attend school; Exclusion; information Security; Medical; Reorganisation, Redundancy and Redeployment; SEND; Staff Appraisal; Whistleblowing. These policies will be available on the school website.

At the end of each meeting we always record three areas to celebrate, these were agreed as:-

1. The Governors pro-active approach to securing the future of the school.
2. The success of the Young Voices experience
3. That there are 19 applications for Reception 2023!

As always Governors we are in school every Friday morning at the main gate to meet parents and children and to listen to any comments and concerns. Parents of children in Reception or Year 1 are welcome to pop round to the main gate if they wish to speak to a governor. We are all also available to contact by email.

Yours sincerely
Mary Lumley
Chair of Governors





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The Governing Body of Cliffe School and their areas of responsibility are as below

Name	Contact email address	Role	Specific Responsibility
Mary Lumley (Co-opted Governor)	cofg@cliffe.n-yorks.sch.uk	Chair of Governors	SEND; Pupil Premium; Early Years; Staff Wellbeing; Headteacher Performance Management
Pru Topping (Parent Governor)	ptopping@cliffe.n-yorks.sch.uk	Vice-Chair of Governors and Vice-Chair of Resources Committee	Headteacher Performance Management; Music; Computing
Rob Allan (Co-opted Governor)	rallan@cliffe.n-yorks.sch.uk	Chair of Resources Committee	Health and Safety; Sports Premium; PE; History; Geography
Ashley Pickles (Parent Governor)	apickles@cliffe.n-yorks.sch.uk		Headteacher Performance Management; Art; Design Technology; Science
Claire Morrow (Parent Governor)	cmorrow@cliffe.n-yorks.sch.uk		Maths; Modern Foreign Language
Lara Thornton (Co-opted Governor)	lthornton@cliffe.n-yorks.sch.uk		English
Carole Middleton (Co-opted Governor)	cmiddleton@cliffe.n-yorks.sch.uk		Safeguarding and Prevent; Personal Social, Health, Citizenship Education (PSHCE); Sex and Relationships Education (SRE)
Karl Arthur (Local Authority)	karthur@cliffe.n-yorks.sch.uk		
Howard Cross (Foundation)	hcross@cliffe.n-yorks.sch.uk		

