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Dear Parents / Carers,

It's that time of year again where the governing body takes some time to reflect on the last year and look forward to what we will be doing before the end of the 2019/20 school year.

Firstly, welcome to all of the new families to the school, whether you have children in the reception classes or further up the school. Yet again we have been fully subscribed in reception, and the school is at capacity in nearly all year groups – this is fantastic for the school, and just goes to show how good a job our staff do in making our school so popular.

I also wish to thank all of the parents and also the school staff for their patience during the summer building works. As you all know we had to shut the school a few days early for summer and also open a little later in September too in order to get the school packed up and then put back together. Well done to all of the staff, and lots of parents who spent time packing, unpacking, moving, cleaning and all the myriad other things that needed doing to get the school ready to teach in again. As well as the obvious improvements to ceilings, lighting, break out spaces and general decoration, the main reason for doing the work was a complete re-wire, kitchen improvements and significant plumbing work. This should stand us in good stead for the next few years.

Again this year the governing body continues to be very well supported. It is testament to the interest that the parents and wider community have in our school, that the governing body is fully subscribed. During the last year we had several governors move on to govern at other schools or leave us as their children move on to secondary school – but there has been no shortage of dedicated replacements for them which keeps our governance fresh with new ideas and enthusiasm.

One of the key requirements of the school governing body is to oversee the financial position of the school. This mostly includes watching what the school spends its money on and its impact on the education of our pupils, as well as how the school can generate additional income from our facilities. We also participate in discussions with the local authority in the way that school funding is distributed across South Gloucestershire.

School funding has continued to be very much in the news over the last year and particularly now with the General Election looming; I hope that finally there may be some good news coming from central government with more money promised to schools. Unfortunately South Gloucestershire remains one of the lowest funded authorities in the UK; many schools have already wiped out any savings they had set aside for a 'rainy day'... with most now setting deficit budgets. At FCCE our excellent School Business Manager continues to seek ways in which we can reduce spend wherever possible without affecting the quality of education and care that we provide.

However, it would be fair to say that there is very little non-essential spend left in our budget, so I continue to urge you to support the brilliant work that the Friends of FCCE do in their fundraising

throughout the year. This is absolutely critical to allow us to buy the essential resources needed to support your child's learning.

Another element of the governors remit is to monitor the educational performance of the school. We do this in a number of ways, such as looking at internal average pupil performance data, reviewing external results such as the Standard Assessment Tests (SATs) and also visiting the school to talk to children about their education, observe lessons with subject leaders, and talk to staff about the plans and outcomes for their teaching over the year. A key part of this is the monitoring of the School Development Plan (SDP). There are five objectives that the leadership team and governors have identified as goals for the school this year, they are as follows:

1. To further enhance children's wellbeing and positive learning behaviours.
2. To continue to produce excellent, confident readers who love to read.
3. All children will achieve, either through meeting Age Related Expectations (ARE) or by making above average progress.
4. To establish an 'inspirational' curriculum ('Why, How and What').
5. To develop children's spirituality and engagement in all acts of worship.

These goals are shared with all school staff, children and with you so that we are all contributing to delivering the best outcomes we can for the children. As you can see from our SDP goals, at FCCE we put as much emphasis on academic performance as we do on children's wellbeing and inspiring them through the experiences that they have such as Enrichment days, School trips, visitors, and also focussed time on specific skills such as the recent Art Week.

On the subject of academic performance I am very pleased to say that yet again our external results for Year 2 and Year 6 SATs tests have been fantastic, matching or beating previous years, we remain well within the top 20% of primary schools in the UK and in the top 5 schools in South Gloucestershire. However we can always identify areas to work on, which is why we continue to focus on reading, both in school and at home as key to enabling your child's learning potential, and also in encouraging all of our children to stretch themselves by trying things they find difficult.

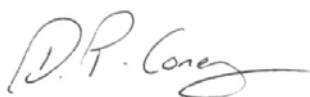
As a school and governing body we would very much welcome your input on what we are doing well, and how we can improve. It would be very beneficial if as many of you as possible could fill in the Ofsted Parent View questionnaire (<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>) to help us identify things we need focus on or simply identify where we are strong. Of course if you want to talk to a governor about any aspect of the schools strategy or governance please, either find one of us when we are around school, or request an appointment through the school office.

You can find out about your governors by taking a look at our page on the school website.

(www.fcceprimaryschool.co.uk/governors)

Finally thank you to the whole school staff for all their hard work over the last year, and to you, the parents and carers of children at our school for your continued support this year.

Yours faithfully



Dan Coney (Chair of Governors at FCCE Primary School)