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Dear Parents / Carers,

We are already one term into the 2018/19 school year, so it's high time that the governing body reports back to you on the school's achievements last year and our plans for this one.

This year we have been fully subscribed in Reception, and I would like to welcome all of the new families to the school. We also have several new children who have joined the school in other years, so welcome to you too, and thank you for choosing FCCE.

Our first Saturday open morning, which we ran in September, was a huge success. It was a great opportunity for prospective pupils and their families to have a good look round and see what we do. Thank you to all of the staff and children who gave up their time to come along, help out and speak to parents. The morning really showed off our school, its pupils and ethos. A special thanks goes to Mrs Hornig for the idea, and organisation of this fantastic event.

The governing body continues to be very well supported; last year we had several governors reach the end of their tenure; I am pleased to say that their roles have been quickly filled by new and eager members. A school governing body is a voluntary role but extremely important to the success of a school. It has three main jobs:

- Oversee the financial position of the school, making sure the money is well spent,
- Hold the head teacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils; and
- Ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.

School finance has been in the national news recently, particularly due to announcements in the chancellor's last budget. It would be fair to say that the position is difficult, with Government investment in education falling behind other services. The situation in South Gloucestershire is particularly bad, and whilst the council did secure one of the largest percentage increases last year, unfortunately we are now the worst funded authority in the country.

Our budget is tight, but we have an excellent team at FCCE, striving to make sure that every penny of our funding goes towards improving the education and experiences of our children. Our school business manager, Lucy Gale works tirelessly in re-negotiating contracts to get best value for money on services and supplies, we are also working with other schools in the area to buy services together to get better value. You have of course helped immensely in supporting the Friends of FCCE in their fundraising efforts. They raised an astounding £16,000 for the school last year! This is money we cannot do without. We also embarked upon the first of our DIY weekends – painting the school hall, in an attempt to smarten up the buildings without hiring costly contractors. I hope you agree that we were successful; we hope to do more of these activities in the spring, so please watch the newsletters for how you can help.

Now onto the **educational performance** of the school over the last year... there are lots of measures we could choose to share, but here are a few of the highlights. At Key Stage 2 our children's SATS results were yet again fantastic, with 85% of the pupils meeting or exceeding Age Related Expectations in all three subjects (Reading, Writing and Maths) compared to 64% nationally and 63% in South Glos. In addition to this, our children's progress scores were in the top 5% of schools nationally for Writing and Maths and top 25% for Reading. At Key Stage 1 the results are just as good, far exceeding national and local authority figures in all three subjects. More details on all of our results including Year 1 phonics and Early Years can be found on the school website.

Of course, results aren't everything and at FCCE we are continuing to look for new ways to provide exciting educational experiences for the pupils; last year we introduced Enrichment days which have been a great success in enabling children to try new activities outside of the normal curriculum.

Teaching standards are also an important measure of school performance, last year 75% of our Teachers and TA's were graded as 'outstanding' with the remainder all graded 'good' – we strive to increase this figure still further this year. We also had one of our teachers, Abbie Anderton, awarded Bristol 'Primary Teacher of the Year', and Mrs Knight runner up for Bristol 'SEN Teacher of the Year', these awards are a great testament to how hard they and the rest of the staff work.

The third aspect of the governor's job is to **ensure clarity of vision and strategic direction**; the school is currently formulating a longer-term strategic vision which will guide us for 3 to 5 years and from which each year's School Development Plan will be derived. This year's School Development Plan consists of 5 targets:


1. To become the happiest school in South Gloucestershire (pupil well-being and mental health).
2. To develop exceptional standards of teaching and learning.
3. To embed an inspirational curriculum.
4. All children to meet Age Related Expectation or make above-expected progress in reading, writing and maths.
5. To develop children's spirituality.

Each target has a group of staff, governors and experts assigned to it, who will be working on innovative ways to deliver on each of the goals and ensure that we can measure our success. We want parents and children to be aware of, and contribute to the development plan, so you will see posters around the school as reminders and we will get children involved in consulting and helping us with each goal.

Finally, thank you to Mr Barnard and the whole school staff for all of their hard work last year, and to parents and carers for the support you provide your children in their learning at FCCE.

If you would like to get in touch with a governor about any aspect of the school strategy or governance please either find one of us around the school at drop off or pick up time (our names and pictures are on a board outside the office) or request an appointment via the school office.

Yours faithfully



Dan Coney (Chair of Governors at FCCE Primary School)