



Ravenfield Primary Academy LOCAL GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE



Moor Lane North, Ravenfield, Rotherham S65 4LZ

Thursday 16th July 2020

Dear Parents & Carers

When I wrote to you all in March, I don't think any of us could have predicted how this summer term would turn out - it has certainly been a period that none of us will ever forget! Governors met again via Zoom this evening and they were keen that I write to you before the school closes for the summer.

Governors would like to place on record our thanks to all the parents of Ravenfield children for your understanding and support through what has been a very challenging period for all of you, for the staff and of course for the children. We know how hard parents have worked to support children's home-learning since March and how hard staff have worked to maintain contact with our children and families, plan and share learning and provide support for children's emotional well-being. This has been a huge learning curve for all schools and whilst governors recognise that not all the arrangements will have suited everyone all the time, we are mindful that it is unlikely there will be a school in the country that has got everything right! Although we would all prefer not to have to contemplate a re-run of this last term, in the autumn, we will want to seek your views on what worked well and ask for your suggestions as to what we might have done differently.

Governors have discussed re-opening plans in readiness for September, when we sincerely look forward to welcoming *all* our children back into school. As children return, school will undoubtedly feel rather different, but governors are confident that the risk-assessments and detailed planning have been extremely thorough. We are mindful that planning for closure, partial and then full re-opening of schools is a task that no school or school leader has ever had to do before in the circumstances created by a pandemic. The clear strategic direction and support for individual schools provided by Maltby Learning Trust throughout this period, has helped to ensure consistency of approach in implementing the DfE guidance and has been invaluable to staff and to governors. We hope you have enjoyed receiving the MLT weekly updates which have illustrated how the trust has been working with all its school during these strange times and importantly celebrating the many achievements of learners.

This is the time of year when we say goodbye to our year 6 children and their families, but even this has been fraught with difficulty too this year although governors know that staff are planning an event for Y6 children as soon as it is safe to do so. We didn't want the end of term to pass though, without saying *thank you* to you all and *goodbye* to many of you who won't have a child attending Ravenfield next year. We hope all our leavers move on confidently to the next stage in their education and know that everyone associated with Ravenfield will wish them well.

Governors look forward to welcoming you and your children back into school in September and wish you a safe and happy summer break.

With best wishes

Liz Buxton

Mrs E M Buxton
Chair of Governors