



Dear Parents and Carers

As the end of another term comes hurtling towards us and with the result of the election still fresh in our minds, I've never known such an extended period of time when education has been out of the headlines. On one hand, it has been refreshing not to have the rhetoric, from all parts of the political arena, being shoved down our throat. However, on the other hand, we need to keep education on the agenda so we can hold the powers-that-be to account. All corners of the education system face challenges; Bampton and other schools in our extended community are not alone. However, the wellbeing and development of our children is always paramount. At Bampton School, our teachers work tirelessly and our children are their priority.

During this term the governors had the opportunity to visit many classrooms as part of our Governor Week* (part 1) and once again it was a privilege to see, in action, the dedication and commitment of **all** the staff.

On my visit I was able to enjoy a school dinner with the children (including my daughter much to her embarrassment) and other parents and the atmosphere was fantastic. The staff in the kitchen, the office staff, the teachers, the TA's and the pupils distributing stickers 'I ❤️ School Dinners' all coming together to make the event a success.

Finally, at this time of year, I remind myself that managing a long term, as the tiredness creeps in is tough, going to and from school in the dark must be wearing; the pupils will need their well-earned rest (as well as our dedicated staff).

However, in these last few days of term I'm sure we will all make a final effort to go to the Christmas Fayre, wear a Christmas jumper and enjoy the Christmas performances.

Have a great weekend and, when the time comes, a great break.

Julian Easterbrook

Chair of Governors

Your Governors

Julian Easterbrook (chair, foundation)	Justine Heaslip (parent)
Carol Phillips (head teacher)	Alison Bardsley (co-opted)
Fiona Self (parent, vice chair)	Mike Jones (co-opted)
Penny Fowler (foundation)	Gill Waite (co-opted)
Gaynor Cooper (co-opted)	Stuart Homer (co-opted)
Debbie Jacobs (foundation)	Wendy Copping (staff).

There is one regular observer from the school staff Kerry Collins (Office Manager) and our clerk is Helen Roberts.

Did You Know what a 'Church of England School' is?

When the state became involved with providing mass education, church schools became integrated into the education provided by the state. All these schools are known as maintained schools – they are funded by the state. All maintained schools including the Church School have to teach Religious education and hold a daily act of worship.

The purpose of a Church of England school is to offer spiritual dimension to the lives of young people, within the traditions of the Church of England, in an increasingly secular world.

Note: 25% of primary schools in England have a Church foundation.

Governor Week*

This is an initiative to provide an opportunity for the governors to get into school and see it in operation. Each governor attends at least nine meetings a year and at these meetings they demonstrate their passion for the school to succeed. However, there is the risk that we could become complacent and lose touch with why we volunteer our time. Being in the classroom, is the perfect antidote, and inspires each governor to remain passionate about Bampton School.

Please do contact Governors if you have any concerns or questions about the general direction of Bampton Primary School and our policies. Lots of you know who we are and you are welcome to approach us at the School gate or failing that please write to me (Julian Easterbrook) either via c/o the School office or by e-mail Governor@bampton.oxon.sch.uk. We cannot deal with issues about your own children – these should be taken up with the class teacher.