

March 2024

Dear Families,

It seems hardly any time since I was writing to you before Christmas and the last three months seem to have flown by. We have had a busy Spring Term with a few challenges to overcome and some very positive things to look forward to. I am keeping in touch with Mrs Moss and she is very upbeat and looking forward to being back in school soon. The Governors are enormously grateful to Miss Townsend for leading the school so efficiently and calmly during Mrs Moss's absence and to all the staff for their wonderful support.

You will by now have received the Ofsted report and our accompanying letter. It is frustrating when the view of one inspector does not match the opinion of all other external agencies. However, the report was extremely complimentary, and I am sure you will support me in thanking our dedicated and talented staff for their hard work in ensuring that your children have the very best education.

By the time we come back from the Easter break, BFS will be part of the Worcestershire Hills Trust. We are looking forward to this new collaboration and being part of a team of likeminded schools, providing us with new opportunities and strong support. It will be very much 'business as usual' and you will see no changes to the way the school is run, the staff, the curriculum or the logo and uniform. I would like to thank Mrs Moss and all the admin staff who have been working tirelessly on all the conversion paperwork, as well as learning a new finance system – a very complex process and all done while seamlessly carrying on with their day-to-day work. Thank you also for your patience as changes are made to our finance systems. Constrained centralised funding has hit all school budgets this year and we are hugely grateful to the PFTA for their fundraising efforts. Please do support PFTA fundraising events; their efforts are even more important during these challenging times.

It wasn't quite the Cannes Film Festival, and I don't think any Hollywood A-listers visited Blackwell (I can but dream) but the children have been busy planning and making films for the Blackwell Film Festival earlier in the term. I enjoyed seeing their projects and the budding directors and stars of the future. This is a most enjoyable part of being Chair of Governors. The children have also had educational visits to places of worship, supporting the school's work on universal values, and some sporting fixtures, including a Year 3 gymnastics festival.

I would like to thank all the parents who responded to the recent Parent Questionnaire. The feedback was very positive and Mrs Moss will consider how this feeds into next year's School development work. These questionnaires are very important for the school, so we appreciate you taking the time to fill them up.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow Governors, the PFTA, staff and volunteers for manning Tea and Toast, hearing readers and accompanying children to Forest School; the time you give to the school is much appreciated and we couldn't function without your help.

I hope you have a happy Easter break and I look forward to seeing you in the Summer Term.

Isabel Welch
Chair of Governors

