

July 2024

Dear Families,

I am writing this end of summer term letter wearing my winter clothes, so I really hope that by the time we break up for 'summer' you will have warm, sunny days to enjoy with your children.

I have now completed my first year as Chair of Governors and I have learned so much during this time, not least understanding educational acronyms! I have learned all about the Little Wandle phonics programme and had some interesting visits to classes to observe learning in action. However, the main thing I have learned this year is how busy, creative and happy our school is and that is solely down to the wonderful, inspiring staff at Blackwell First School. So, may I thank Mrs Moss, Miss Townsend, all the teaching staff, TAs, catering team and support staff for all their hard work and dedication this year. Their professionalism has carried them through what has been a challenging year.

As Governors we have had a busy year, starting with the decision to become a founding member of the new Multi Academy Trust (Worcestershire Hills Trust), followed by Ofsted and then the Academisation process. We are very lucky to have an extremely supportive team of Governors and their considered and thoughtful counsel has been invaluable to the school throughout this transition period. Governors have also been visiting the school regularly, undertaking their own monitoring visits and reporting back on their area of responsibility. We have all been delighted to see the strong outcomes for children in their learning this year.

I was sorry to have missed Sports Day this year, but I understand that it was a great success and enjoyed by children and their families alike. Although the weather didn't look good for our summer fair, it all went extremely well, and I enjoyed meeting many of you on the Governor Ping-Pong stand. Well done to the PFTA for another hugely enjoyable fundraising event. Please do support our PTFA and the events they organise: the money they raise, and donations we receive, are essential to our school and provide much needed funds to help the school run activities, buy books and equipment.

We always have a great programme of activities for the children each year. Reception to Year 4 enjoyed Blist's Hill, particularly going down the mine and the giant playground! And as always, Year 4 had a great time on the Malvern residential trip and bell boating. The children have also enjoyed music events, theatre trips and visits to places of worship.

I would like to wish all Year 4 children good luck moving on to their new schools and new adventures. I am sure they will look back on Blackwell FS with fond memories. Thank you again to all our staff, and good luck to Mrs Webb who is off on maternity leave and finally, thank you to all of the parents, grandparents and wider families for all of your support.

Have a happy and enjoyable summer!

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Isabel Welch, Chair of Governors

