



Have courage! It is I. Don't be afraid.  
**Mark 6:50**



## Chair of Governors Newsletter – Autumn Term 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

A very warm welcome back to you all and especially to our 3 new families - It must be a record for us to have 12 siblings in Reception Class. It is also lovely to have some more families joining us from the village. And so, for the benefit of new Parents, let me introduce myself and for everyone else you know the drill - just skip the next paragraph.

It is actually beginning to feel like a long time, but it was 13 years ago when I first walked up the drive with my twin girls, Serena and Poppy. For my first two years I was a member of the PTA and then when my son, Daniel, started school 2 years later, I also became a Parent Volunteer in Reception Class. I became a Foundation Governor 7 years ago and this will be my fifth year as Chair.

I continue to volunteer in Reception Class each week as I feel it is important to get to know the children well and then I can follow them through the school. I met all the new children on their first day and they were thoroughly enjoying the playground before the older children joined them; As always, our older children were very protective of the little ones and older siblings took great pride in introducing me to their brothers and sisters. I loved hearing their tales of the holidays or how much they loved their new (more grown-up) uniform or how their new shoes hurt! I must thank you all for how smart the children looked at the start of their first day and if they were bedraggled when you picked them up, I'm sure it was because they had lots of fun!

We have had another busy summer in school; All Teachers have been preparing their Classrooms for the new school year and planning exciting lessons for the children. We are introducing an exciting new learning opportunity for the children, which we have titled Project 2.4 – 'Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others' (Philippians 2:4). The children will be split into 5 mixed-age groups across the whole school and for five sessions across this term will engage in activities related to our chosen theme of 'The Lost Words' by Robert MacFarlane and Jackie Thomas. I am looking forward to the planned Showcase Session at the end of November, when the children will share the whole experience with us all.

I know our Leavers' Assembly seems like a long time ago but I just want to acknowledge the achievements of those children who were presented with awards for consistently demonstrating our Christian values: Charlie (Love), Gabriella (Compassion), Evie (Respect) and Alessandro (Courage). The very special prize of the Bishop's Award was presented to Kirat for embracing all our Christian Values and practising them in all aspects of her life. All the children are very deserving of their awards and once again I congratulate them and thank their Parents for reinforcing the Christian ethos of our school.

Also in July, I was very proud to accompany our Student Leadership Team to the Holiday Inn for the 'Bright Sparks Challenge' award ceremony. We received a Bronze Award for the money we raised for Lakelands Hospice but we also came 2<sup>nd</sup> for the amount raised per pupil. Thank you all for your generosity and especially your support of our PTA; The Committee work tirelessly throughout the year and I can't thank them enough for all the effort they put into much needed and appreciated fundraising for our school.

I wish you all a Very Happy, Healthy, Successful School Year!

Amanda de Choisy, Chair of Governors