



'Shine like Stars'

15th September 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome, or welcome back, to a new school year at Stoke Row School. I hope you have all had enjoyable summers and your children are raring to demonstrate their Perseverance, Achievement, Excellence, Kindness and Respect over the weeks and months to come.

As ever, there are comings and goings to report on the Governing Body. We were very sad to say goodbye to Peter Allport earlier this year, whose business skills and ability to see 'the big picture' were always invaluable. But we are in equal measure delighted to welcome Rev Mark Taylor to the team. Many of you will already know Mark as the minister at Stoke Row Chapel and the editor of Stoke Row News; he also brings extensive experience of digital communications and strategy which is vital in 2017!

Returning parents will also have noticed the obvious changes to our teaching staff, as announced at the end of last year. We have sadly bid farewell to Miss Morrin, who has moved on to exciting new adventures outside of teaching, and Miss Wood who has moved closer to her family in Bristol. I am sure that you will all join me in thanking them for their huge efforts and enthusiasm and we all wish them the best for the future. You will be pleased to hear that both had only positive things to say about the children at Stoke Row School.

In their place we welcome Mrs Hughes, Mrs Shipway and Miss Siv, and I have no doubt you will support them as they settle into the School. We are delighted that we now have the most experienced team of teachers at Stoke Row for many years. Our leadership roles have also been refined: Miss Doe is acting as Assistant Head as well as leading on Key Stage 1, Mathematics and SEN, while Mrs Fraser is leading Literacy and Key Stage 2.

Last year's SATS results were very strong and we expect to see the School significantly above the national average when the final data are released: testament I believe to the strength of teaching, the consistent application of our School values and the effort put in by our professional team.

Indeed, while it may be an old cliché, our staff really are our greatest asset. As well as holding them to account, as a Governing body we also have a responsibility for their welfare. On that note, one theme which appeared in last year's staff survey and on discussion with both of our exiting teachers was that occasionally parents have been rather discourteous in their discussions with staff.

Stoke Row C.E. School

School Lane, Stoke Row
Henley-on-Thames
Oxfordshire RG9 5QS

Headteacher: Miss Charlotte Harris
BA (Hons), PGCE, MEd, NPQH

Kindness · Respect · Perseverance · Excellence · Achievement



"Pupils value their school highly and feel lucky to be part of such a close-knit community, where all pupils look after and play with each other"
Ofsted 'Good' 2014

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Many of us on the Governing Body are parents of children at the School ourselves, and we understand how fundamentally important decisions which affect our children can be. However, we also know that every one of our teachers is highly invested, both personally and professionally, in the outcomes of all children in their classes. Important choices or judgements are never made in isolation, and the progress of every child in the School is regularly reviewed by the senior team. All this is not to say that things will always be perfect, nor that feedback, suggestions and even criticism are discouraged – in fact, quite the opposite: we are, after all, experts in our own children. However, we would ask that when parents feel this is necessary, they follow the standard procedures and are respectful in their interactions with teachers, as they would be with any professionals.

With this in mind, the Governing Body will continue to perform its 'critical friend' role as the staff seek to achieve better than projected outcomes for all children. Data on the progress of each year group are scrutinised by the Governing Body, while Miss Harris, alongside external experts including other local headteachers, regularly review the quality and methods of teaching. Furthermore, we will continue to perfect the assessment system for the new curriculum, focus on spelling across the School and manage our budget prudently.

We plan to update you further on our long term strategy during the School year.

As ever, please do not hesitate to get in touch with any ideas or concerns, and I look forward to meeting many of you in the coming months.

Yours Sincerely,

Mr David Lowe

Chair or Governors – Stoke Row C.E Primary School

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