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## GOVERNORS' EASTER NEWSLETTER 2013

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff and Children

It was a great pleasure to see lots of old friends and meet some new faces at the recent parents' evenings in March. Thanks to all of you who took the time to fill in our Spring Parent Questionnaire and for the lovely, positive comments. There were lots of really useful suggestions and ideas which we intend to incorporate into our regular Governor events such as sharing the relevant school foci at any given time more clearly with parents and carers, and I am including some of your comments from the questionnaire in this newsletter. I would also like to share with you the comments made by our Hertfordshire Improvement Partner (HIP), Mrs Sue Rayment in her Joint Annual Review (JARV) which I'm sure you will agree echo some of your own sentiments.

The whole school focus last year was Maths and this year we are highlighting Literacy. You will see from Mrs Rayment's comments that the "switch" in emphasis has been achieved without compromising the strides made in Maths during the previous year. Numeracy and Literacy opportunities are cleverly interwoven into the whole curriculum giving the children an obvious "purpose" for specific Maths and English skills.

Parent Questionnaire - Spring 2013:

Under the heading "**What do you think is the major strength of Chorleywood Primary School?**"

Phrases such as: "*Very friendly and inclusive*" and "*strong community feel*" were used frequently together with comments such as "*... a caring environment for my*

*child with emphasis on both academic and personal development ...* " ...the fact that each staff member knows each and every child is fantastic ..." "Great atmosphere for learning, very positive." "Excellent teaching!" "Happy, secure and friendly environment." "Happy, fun and safe place whilst providing a fantastic learning environment."

Under "**Is there any one way in which you think the school could improve?**": "No, from what I see the school is brilliant!" "... it's a very good school ... hard to find fault with it!" There were many suggestions including more PE, drama and music opportunities, further development of school communication systems, and tidying up the outside areas. We hope to be in receipt of some extra PE funding in the not too distant future (courtesy of Lord Coe and the 2012 Olympic Legacy) and work has already begun on improvements outside Years 1 & 2 which should not only provide a more aesthetic play/learning environment but also alleviate the drainage issues outside these classes. Any relevant school focus is driven by a post Ofsted Action Plan and we will be investigating ways in which we could share this information with you on a more regular basis. In terms of improving communication, look out for the new, "revamped" school website coming soon and for requests for ideas for helping us celebrate the school's Centenary (1914-2014) next year.

Mrs Sue Rayment (HIP) made this summary statement after her Joint Annual Review visit in February:

*"There is good evidence that middle leaders are part of a rigorous monitoring schedule. As a result, they are able to make accurate self-evaluation judgements about their subject. In addition, they identify strengths and weaknesses in provision and the outcomes of all monitoring are acted upon. The subject leaders interviewed are delivering training and support that continues to drive pupil achievement and is resulting in a picture of good progress and high attainment across the school."*

I'm sure you will agree that from both Mrs Rayment's point of view and your own, the school continues to stride from strength to strength and we thank you for your continued support and encouragement. It is very pleasing to know that an overwhelmingly high percentage of parents/carers are delighted with the school. Many thanks to Mrs Roberts, the teaching and classroom support teams, office staff, midday supervisors and Mr Fowler the caretaker together with his

team of premises staff for helping to create our wonderful school. Of course, this is in part also due to our bright, happy and hardworking children!

There will be one more parent teacher vacancy in the Autumn Term (2013/14) as Mrs Alex Bettridg'e's current term of office comes to an end in the summer. The governors sincerely hope that she may wish to stand again, however, if any of you are interested in nominating yourselves then please go to [www.hertsdirect.org](http://www.hertsdirect.org) for further information. The time commitment of being a parent governor is not to be under-estimated, however, it is very rewarding. I take this opportunity to thank Mrs Cathy Silmon for her warm manner, unrelenting support and commitment to the Governing Body, as at the time of writing this letter the outcome of the current parent governor election is unknown.

With very best wishes to you all for a peaceful, relaxing (and dry!) Easter.

Carla Avis

Chair of Governors

Chorleywood Primary School