

## Arden Forest Infant School Governing Body Update to parents July 2019

Welcome to the Summer update from the Governing Body at the end of what has been a busy and positive year at the school.

I would like to start by wishing the Year 2 school leavers all the very best. We hope that they have enjoyed their time at Arden Forest and continue to achieve and develop their potential at their new schools. We also look forward to welcoming a new cohort of children into Reception in September and wish all pupils well as they move up into their new classes.

Over the year, the school has held a number of learning showcases and other events across all three year groups, which I have had the privilege of attending both as a parent and as a Governor. These events and others such as the special ladies and men's celebrations (the latter was especially well attended this year), Christmas plays and sports day are always well attended, which means a lot to the children and staff. We hope that those of you with children remaining in the school will continue to support and enjoy these events in the coming year.

As a Governing Body we regularly review the school data as well as visiting occasionally during the school day to talk to pupils and teachers and look at their work. It is great to see the progress the children have made over this past year and the pride and enjoyment they take in their learning. Being able to deliver consistently strong results would not be possible without the dedication of the staff, the support of parents and families and of course the enthusiasm and hard work of the children themselves. On behalf of the Governing Body I would like to thank everyone for their perseverance and commitment this year.

2018-19 has been a year of significant staff changes at Arden Forest. We have welcomed Miss Brindley as a Year 1 teacher and English Lead. We have been fortunate to have Miss Woodward join the school for two terms teaching Class 3, and wish her well as she begins a new adventure teaching overseas. We also said goodbye to Miss Gordon, a teacher in Reception, at Christmas, and Mrs Smith, who covered her post for the remainder of the year, will also be leaving us. We wish them both all the best and thank them for their hard work. We will also miss teaching assistant Tracey Ison who is retiring this year and would like to wish Sarah Davidon all the best in the future. We are also very sad to be saying goodbye to Ms Ashan, who has been a highly dedicated deputy head and teacher at Arden Forest for 5 years. We wish her all the best in her new post in September and know that she will be greatly missed by all.

Of course one of the biggest changes for the school this year has been the retirement of Head Teacher, Mrs Norris in December 2018. We are extremely grateful to Mrs Hunter for stepping in as Interim Head for the Spring and Summer terms, offering strong leadership at a time of change for the school. In April we were successful in recruiting a new Head Teacher, Mrs Gunn, who will begin her post in September. Mrs Gunn has already been meeting regularly with the staff and governors to ensure a smooth transition and we are confident that she can take forward the values and ethos of Arden Forest and will be highly committed to the school and its pupils. Mrs Gunn will be leading a team of both experienced and new staff, and we also look forward to welcoming Mrs Massey, Mrs Burch and Miss Rowbottom to Arden Forest in September.

Each year at Arden Forest brings about new opportunities and challenges for the Governing Body and in order to ensure we continue to meet these effectively we are always keen for new Governors to join us. The role of a School Governor is highly rewarding, interesting and crucial to ensuring the school continues to meet the needs of its pupils. No particular experience is necessary, Governors simply need to have enthusiasm and a desire to make a positive contribution to children's education. Governors meet six times per year and training is provided.

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a Governor at Arden Forest, please contact the Chair of Governors via the school office for more information. Details of the role can also be found at [www.nga.org.uk/be-a-governor.aspx](http://www.nga.org.uk/be-a-governor.aspx)

Thank you for your continued support over the year and I hope you and your families have a relaxing summer break.

The Governors – Arden Forest Infant School