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December 2017

Dear Parents,

Value who we are and who we can become

A belated welcome to new parents from the governors; I try to write early in the school year but various things have conspired against me doing so this year. I hope you have now settled into school.

Part of the reason for the delay in writing is that we have had a change of personnel on the governing board and I wanted to be able to officially congratulate our two new parent governors (Jenni Dimbylow and Darren Hopgood) and thank them for putting themselves forward for the role. They replace Neil Fletcher who kindly offered to step down early to allow parents from the younger years to bring their ideas and enthusiasm to our team and Helen Young who has stepped down after many years of service. I'm grateful to both of them for the time and commitment to the school as governors and wish them well for the future.

As always we have spent a lot of our time on the day to day obligations of governance including holding the school to account on attainment and progress of pupils and building on our superb Ofsted result last year. Each year we select 1--2 additional key areas on which to focus our attention. Last year this included looking at school size which we have written to you about separately. The Finance, Premises and Personnel sub-committee continue to look at admission criteria as we face rising demand for places. We also started to look at developing social capital, the confidence and connections children need to develop to their full potential. It's an exciting and developing area of educational thought and one which has been in the headlines recently with news that West Berkshire and the Vale of White Horse came very low down in social mobility rankings. With assistance from one of our governors we hope to get a very high profile speaker in to help governors develop our thinking and consider how we can make a difference at The Hendreds but also regionally.

If you would like to know more about our work then please do ask one of us, we would be delighted to answer any questions you may have.

Best wishes and I hope you have a very happy Christmas,

Richard Case
Chairman of Governors