



# Local Governing Board Newsletter

## Braybrook Primary Academy

October 2020 Issue 1

### Hello and Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly I want to welcome everyone back to Braybrook Primary Academy. Following the difficult second half of the 2019/20 year, we (the Local Governing Board) are delighted to see that the school has been able to receive all age groups back for the new academic term.

We want to offer a particularly warm welcome to all the new children and families, joining the school for the first time, and we hope that this year will be a happy and successful one for everyone.



Due to the current situation regarding the Covid-19 or Coronavirus I felt it appropriate as Chair of Governors, to give you some reassurance about the safety and wellbeing of your children at Braybrook Primary Academy. I have been appointed as chair, by the Trust, since the end of July 2020.

Cast your minds back to September 2019, when the new school year started with promise, and when words such as 'Covid', 'bubbles' and 'key worker' were yet to form part of our everyday language. Who would have imagined that the school year would end in March, when most of our children waved their teachers goodbye for the last time this year? The word 'unprecedented' has been bandied about over the past few months, but I cannot think of a more apt term to describe the 2019/2020 academic year. The coronavirus pandemic has represented an enormous challenge to everyone across our school community, and I am amazed by the way in which everyone has risen to that challenge. Our school leaders put together a 'remote school' and then took every step they could to make the school as safe as possible when it came to partially re-open. The teaching staff made home learning packs for our children whilst continuing to offer onsite education for the children of our key workers. The support staff enabled the school to remain open for those who need it by putting new procedures into place and by keeping it clean and tidy. Our parents demonstrated incredible support to the school and their families and most importantly, our children have shown courage, resilience and resourcefulness in the manner in which they have tackled 'the new normal.' Thank you to the entire school community for the hard work and spirit that they have shown in making the most testing of times as positive for our children as possible. We recognise that every family's circumstances are different, and that home-schooling has put additional pressure on parents and carers already juggling competing demands. We take our hats off to you for rising to the challenge and hope that you take pride in yourselves for doing your best in difficult circumstances. As governors, we continue to work together closely with our school leaders to ensure that all decisions taken are in the best interest of staff and pupils.

I have been in regular contact with Miss Green, and am satisfied that all guidance from the Department of Health is being stringently followed. Staff have been given extra briefings on hygiene and handwashing and on how to ensure our young people are kept safe. Attendance is amazing with Braybrook Primary being 96.6% compared to Peterborough average of 90%



As a parent myself I am aware of the anxiety many of you will be feeling, particularly if your child has underlying health issues and in those cases you should seek the advice of your health professionals. If your child is generally well then you must send them into school as normal and trust us, as you do every other day, to do our very best to keep them safe, happy and educated.

In terms of our expectations for the school, there has been a change of emphasis, but not direction. Safeguarding remains the #1 priority of ourselves and every other school in the country. We have updated our policy to reflect the new working arrangements, but otherwise nothing's changed. Our vision for the school remains unchanged, as does our expectation around financial control. There will have to be changes to our short-term expectations on school performance, but nothing changes in the medium to long-term. And to re-emphasise the point I made earlier, once we're through this we will look forwards not back. We will remind ourselves what made this school great and we will build on it. There will inevitably be some catching-up to do, but we will see that as an opportunity not a problem. And we will look at the core foundations that are enabling us to get through this period and we will remind ourselves that the best time to judge performance is when we're challenged.

The schools will continue to monitor the advice from the Government Agencies, act accordingly and keep you informed through the normal information channels. I think the main message is to minimise panic and keep life as normal as possible for our children whilst being extra attentive to hygiene and minimising risk wherever we can.

But my biggest ask for you all is to have patience. As I stated at the start of my message, we have no idea how or when this will end. Whilst some amongst us will be elated, there will also be some who are nervous, both parents/carers and school staff. That is a perfectly human response and when the time comes I would like us to bear that in mind. We are as desperate to get back to normality as everyone, but it is more likely to be a journey than a specific date in the calendar.

Finally I'd like to thank you. I hope we never go through anything like this again as long as we all live, but the support you have shown Miss Green and the rest of the school has been heart-warming. As a society we are learning who really matters in a time of crisis and I hope this is a memory we all carry once we come out the other side.

Stay safe everyone!

Regards

Mrs Toni Glendenning  
Chair of LGB

