Mapperley Plains
Primary School

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of the first half term of the school year, I wanted to write on behalf of the Governing Body to reflect on the start to the year and share some of our work.

It has been a busy and positive start. Children have settled into their new classes and routines, our youngest children have begun their journey at Mapperley Plains and Year 6 have started their final year with us. Alongside their everyday learning, children have enjoyed a range of practical activities and experiences beyond the classroom.

The Governing Body has met formally this half term and I have also spent time in school with Paul and members of the team, seeing aspects of provision first hand. These visits help us understand the school's strengths, the challenges it faces and where further work is needed.

We have approved the School Improvement Plan for the year. A central theme is securing greater consistency across teaching, curriculum, assessment and support for children with additional needs. Work has also taken place to strengthen staffing and leadership capacity. Governors will monitor how these developments contribute to stronger provision and better outcomes for children. Our role is to provide strategic oversight and hold school leaders to account, combining support with constructive challenge. That means looking beyond whether an action has been completed and asking what difference it is making to children's learning and experiences.

Safeguarding remains a central priority. Governors have reviewed the school's arrangements for the new academic year and continue to seek assurance that policies and procedures are understood and applied in practice. We are taking the same approach to special educational needs and disabilities, inclusion and attendance: looking at how needs and barriers are identified, how children are supported and how the school evaluates the effectiveness of that support.

We have also been considering the school's longer-term sustainability through scrutiny of finances, staffing, premises and health and safety. Schools operate in a challenging financial environment. Governors must ensure that decisions are affordable and sustainable while keeping children's needs at the centre.

The Governing Body itself is continuing to develop. We are strengthening governor roles and increasing opportunities to visit school, speak with leaders and examine evidence of improvement. This will help governors build the knowledge they need to ask informed questions and follow up on progress. Communication with families has also been discussed this term. The school has been working to make information more accessible, including through its website. Governors recognise that effective communication needs to be clear, timely and easy for families to find and understand.

Thank you to all the staff at Mapperley Plains for their work during this first half term and to parents and carers for your continued support. Most importantly, thank you to the children for the enthusiasm and curiosity they bring to school.

There is much to recognise from the start of the year and important work still to do. Governors will continue to support Paul and the team while holding a clear focus on the impact of improvement for children.

I hope all our children, families and staff have an enjoyable half-term break.

Yours sincerely,
Daniel Moore

Chair of Governors

On behalf of the Governing Body
Mapperley Plains Primary and Nursery School

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