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HOLT HOUSE AND CARTERKNOWLE SCHOOLS FEDERATION

Carterknowle Junior School
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24 March 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

We are nearly at the end of the Spring Term and governors are keen that you know about what has been happening at both schools.

We have taken full advantage of the Spring weather for the children to get outside, both to play and learn, as well as participate in a number of visits/activities.

In class there has also been plenty of action. Both infant and junior classrooms look inviting and entertaining, as well as supportive for learning and I hope you will take the opportunity to have a look as you come into the schools. You will find the pupils are keen to tell you about what they are learning. Regular reviews of pupil progress have been held and the quality and range of the learning assessed by senior leaders and external reviewers; the outcomes of which have been very positive.

With regards to the planned new secondary school, you will now have received the same information that the schools received and we know that there are many questions. We are told that there will be an opportunity for the sponsors – Mercia Trust, to explain their vision and plans. As soon as we have any more information we will make sure it is passed on to you.

This is the time of the term when we say goodbye to some staff moving on to new challenges and even new cities. As governors we wish them every success in their new roles. We are also planning for the maternity leave of Mrs Reilly (deputy headteacher at Holt House). Congratulations to her and her family. Miss Clark will be working across the federation, with Mrs Haynes, to provide senior leadership in Holt House during Mrs Reilly's maternity leave. Holt House parents will start to see Miss Clark at Holt House after Easter, getting to know the infant school.

As governors we have not overlooked our own development either as a group, or as individuals and we have visited the school to see for ourselves what is happening both in learning and in social times. We have been very impressed with the quality of provision that we have seen for your children.

The difficult bit of this end of the term has been the formulation of the budget for 2017-18. We are committed to providing for a diverse group of pupils and giving the children the widest range of experiences and the broadest curriculum possible. The changes, however, in the way we are funded through a national funding formula, which is due to be implemented next year, will impact on us. We are not alone in these issues and you will be aware of a number of press items covering the issues of school funding. There is a briefing document on the website that

explains funding in detail and a simple search will enable you to see the responses of teachers, local authorities, trades unions and politicians.

researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN06702/SN06702.pdf

Let's hope the weather is kind over Easter and the pupils can continue to be healthy and active during the holiday period.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Alison Warner', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Alison Warner

Chair of Governors