

CROMFORD SCHOOL GOVERNORS' NEWSLETTER

JULY 2021

REFLECTIONS ON UNPRECEDENTED TIMES

SIMON GOUGH-RUNDLE

PARENT GOVERNOR

As a family we have been connected with Cromford School for a number of years and we have seen it grow in success and numbers. As a Parent Governor, I joined to feel like I was trying to help. Like many, the lockdown has been difficult and mentally a real challenge for me. Then being asked to write this, I thought about the teaching staff and how difficult that must have been. Not only working through supporting the

children of key workers, but also going back to work to support all our little ones, and they should be congratulated on that. The children remain happy (mostly 😊), the school runs well, and the education continues to be delivered. While we all can wish for better, I think the school have done so well to achieve what they have done and deliver as they have done. Keep it up, and thank you

PHIL CURZON

PARENT GOVERNOR

In an unprecedented period where everyone has been affected in one way or another, with social distancing introduced and businesses shut, the decision was taken to shut schools in response to Coronavirus. The response to support remote learning in such a short period was fantastic from a local level and the support offered to families from local schools shows how valuable they are to the local community. Let's hope as much effort and resource that the government has put in to fight Coronavirus can be supplied to local schools to help close the gaps that have been left in our children's education.

GLYN KNIGHTON

Co-Opted Governor

It's been a tough year, but there have also been many positives. Not only have I perfected banana bread, it has been amazing to see the way in which pupils at Cromford School have coped at such an uncertain time. I am also in awe of the staff who have gone above and beyond to continue lessons in school, to provide home learning and support our children.

STEPHANIE WATSON**LA GOVERNOR (VICE CHAIR)**

The last eighteen months have been extremely hard on everyone. Lockdown, no schooling for many, no socializing, no meeting with family, the list goes on and on

Many children were not allowed to attend school and had to be home educated. Many parents, grandparents and carers suffered (myself included) as it put a strain on relationships with our children. Something that I would not like to live through again.

Staff in school struggled trying to balance teaching key worker children, provide work for home education, whilst trying to keep themselves safe in order to protect their own families. Trust me, they really struggled, but pulled out all the stops to keep going for our children's sake.

Thank you, all school staff, for your hard work and continued support for our children.

Not forgetting the parents, grandparents and carers for the work you did with your own children during these difficult times.

You were all amazing especially as we returned to school and most adults abided by the rules of wearing masks when inside the school grounds. This was and still is appreciated by all school staff and Governors. Thank you all and please continue to wear your masks until it is safe not to do so.

Well done School staff, parents, grandparents and carers.

JULIE TAYLOR**FOUNDATION GOVERNOR**

The past 18 months have been both trying and stressful for everyone; a real challenge. Partly because we have been afraid of catching the virus with the possibility of dying but also because we were anxious that we could pass it on to our loved ones.

It also brought other challenges. For the children it has been an unusual learning experience. Those who were home schooled have gained knowledge in baking, nature walks and gardening with parents, obviously after their usual morning lessons. Those who came into school had slightly different experiences but what they all had in common was that they all missed playing with their friends.

All of the parents have done a wonderful job of balancing their work, whether from home or having to share child care duties along with having to home school their children. Hopefully, you all benefitted from your experiences and have made some lovely memories with your children.

We mustn't forget our excellent staff who had to work during the lockdown both with teaching children on line and also in the classroom with the children whose parents are key workers.

I think we should all be proud of what we all have achieved during this very unusual and trying time.

GILL AMBROSE

Foundation Governor

Nobody needs to be told that the last 18 months have been difficult for everyone and school is no exception.

I personally have found it difficult because I used to go into school and listen to children reading, which is a wonderful thing to be able to do, because I'm not a teacher or a parent the children were happy to chat to me and I felt

it was a useful thing to do.

Unfortunately, Covid put an end to that and I have only been able to support staff remotely. Being a grandparent, I have seen at first-hand how difficult it has been for parents to work from home and try to supervise home schooling, especially with younger children around. I take my hat off to parents who have managed to achieve

dealing with their children's emotional and educational needs.

As a governor I have tried to support the staff and appreciate how much work has been done throughout the school to try to support the children with their learning and cope with the emotional turmoil that this last 18 months have caused.

GILL DONALDSON

CHAIR

Since February 2020, the staff, pupils, parents and carers of Cromford School have shown what a resilient bunch of people they are. Even with the many changes the Government have introduced in that time, school life has continued in some shape or form – whether that be by remote learning or within the school walls. Staff have continued to provide an education for our pupils; our pupils have continued to progress (albeit not to the same level we would normally see) and parents/carers have met the challenge of being teachers which for many was a bit out of their comfort zone.

I have observed the ease with which our pupils have become au fait with sanitizer, constant hand washing and working in their assigned bubble. Of course, some things have been missed such as the Y6 not being able to fulfil their position of role models; Years 3 & 4 being taught in the hall instead of a classroom and the fact that whole school assemblies cannot be held. However, it has to be said, that Cromford School staff has managed to steer the children through these troubled times and it speaks volumes about their professionalism, especially as Covid is as big a concern for them as the rest of us.

All the people involved in Cromford School, at whatever level, should feel justifiably proud of how it has continued to meet the needs of the community.