



INTOUCH

THE GREYSBROOKE SCHOOL GOVERNORS' NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 2020

Merry Christmask

THE FESTIVE
EDITION

When we were writing the Christmas edition of InTouch this time last year, I don't think any of us would have believed quite what 2020 had in store!

Our heartfelt thoughts go out to everyone in our Greysbrooke community who has suffered this year – personally or professionally, and we do hope that 2021 brings new hope and good fortune.

It's December, and whilst it all feels a bit odd and disappointing – no Christmas Fayre, no Christmas Plays and particularly sadly, no Christmas Carol Concert – we still do have so much to celebrate and be thankful for.

Firstly, we are very aware that such a lengthy period of home-schooling put immense pressure on parents and teachers alike, and we are so proud of how positively the Greysbrooke community adapted to ensure the children continued to be nurtured, to be inspired, and to grow in very difficult circumstances.

Amazingly, we have now managed to complete a full term with only very limited home schooling required, and we are extremely grateful to everyone for following the guidelines and supporting us to be able to keep the school open. In particular, we owe a huge debt to all the staff who have worked tirelessly to modify timetables, behaviours and routines to keep everyone safe and well, and to minimise disruption for the children.

Secondly, we can celebrate our new Headteacher completing her first year at Greysbrooke! Mrs Ballinger has faced enormous challenges during this period, but has lead the school through a 'never to be forgotten' year, always with a smile on her face, and with the best interests of the children at heart. On behalf of all the governors we would like to congratulate her, and thank her for being, quite frankly, pretty fabulous!

Thirdly, whilst performing our role as governors has been another challenge this year, we can thank goodness for Zoom! We have been able to continue to work alongside Mrs Ballinger and the team, and also continue to progress with the conversion to an Academy, and the joining of the ATLP (Arthur Terry Learning Partnership).

Like most things this year, the legalities are taking slightly longer than anticipated, but we are in the process of completing all the due diligence, and believe the official conversion is likely to happen by Easter. Hopefully by then we may be in a position to have some kind of celebration!

Whilst we may not 'legally' be part of the partnership yet, the ATLP have been hugely supportive, working closely alongside staff and governors, and providing yet more confidence that the decision to join them was the right decision.

So as we all look forward to a well-deserved break, we'd like to thank you all for your continued support. As governors, we are so proud of our wonderful school community and particularly the fabulous teachers, teaching assistants, office staff, lunchtime supervisors and caretaker for all their above and beyond efforts. Whilst Christmas looks a little different for us all this year, please do relax, enjoy the break and stay safe. We look forward to welcoming you back in 2021 to what we anticipate will be a more positive year for everyone. **Merry Christmas!**

See you all
again in **2021**