



The Governing Body

Ainderby Steeple Church of England Primary School
Station Lane, Morton-on-Swale, Northallerton, North Yorkshire DL7 9QR
Telephone: 01609 773519

Dear Parents and Friends,

It is now the end of term and the end of another very busy school year which has been eventful both at a national level and for our school. This year we have worked with the Swaledale Alliance and neighbouring schools. Our children have represented our school at a number of sporting events and we are very proud of their achievements. All of our children and staff have worked very hard and it is their time for a well-deserved summer break.

We are now in a new financial year and I am pleased to report that our school continues to be in a financially sound position. From September we will be moving forward with a four class structure, much like this last year. The school's budget for the following year (2017/2018) will be identified following the school census next term.

As school governors we undertake regular visits to the school to improve our understanding of how the school is performing and identify how things could be improved. Our governors have undertaken a number of visits throughout the year and these are presented to the Governing Body which meets numerous times each term.

This year has seen the introduction of the new Key Stage 2 SATs which raised the bar in terms of expectations of literacy and numeracy and also introduced a new primary testing system of scaled scores. Within the school we have introduced a new target tracking system to monitor pupil achievement and this continues to be refined. We know from this year's SAT results that writing and spelling are two areas which we will be focusing on in our school development plan for next year. As a governing board we will continue to work with the headteacher and staff, acting as a critical friend and supporting the school to ensure that our children have the opportunities to learn and develop their skills that they need.

Travelling through the area you cannot help but notice the significant amount of property development underway. As the population rises, so does the demand for schools. The Local Authority has made a significant investment in our school, as a good performing school, to develop our facilities and expand the school's capacity. Our new classroom will be ready for the next term and will give our Reception and Year One children a much better environment in which to learn and grow.

We have continued to examine ways to improve our school and give more flexibility for all current parents as well as attract new families to the school. Following a survey of parents, you told us that you wanted a before and after school club. We have listened to this and from next term we will launch our new before and after school service.

We are also very pleased with the new school website which was launched earlier this year. The new website clearly shows our vision of “working together to make our best even better” and provides a great deal of information for parents. You can find our website at www.ainderbysteepleschool.org. We have also approved the investment of a new IT infrastructure to provide enhanced network facilities within the school and invested in other technologies to improve classroom interactivity.

As a final note, the end of a school year is always a happy and sombre time. We are very sorry that we will be losing Mrs Best, who has worked for the school for the last 17 years. Mrs Best has always been extremely helpful and we hope she enjoys her travels. We are also sorry to say goodbye to Miss Fawcett who has also left us at the end of this term and we wish Mrs Chilton well as she goes on maternity leave. However, most importantly, for those children who leave us this year we do hope that they have enjoyed their time with us and wish them every success for the future.

Thank you for your time, I hope you enjoy your summer and we will see you in September.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Haydn Rees Jones', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Haydn Rees Jones
Chair of Governors
Ainderby Steeple Church of England Primary School