



**Stelling Minnis C.E. Primary School**  
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Making Shining Stars.

Dear Parents and Carers,

With the end of term and the school holidays now in clear sight, I wanted to express my appreciation to you and our staff for the very impressive way that everyone has worked through what has been the most exceptional year.

The resilience shown by the children has been an inspiration to all the adults involved in their education, and we have been all been reminded that 'schooling' does not start and stop at the school gate, so my thanks to you for all that you have done to support your children's learning at home.

The Governing Body met this afternoon and have received a full report from Mr Gray on the results from the assessment activities, which have taken place during the last term, to identify where each child is in terms of their learning against the national standards, and this information has been shared with you on an individual basis through your child's school report. Overall, the recovery curriculum which was introduced when the children returned to school, and was focused on reading, writing and maths, has worked well. Where under-performance, due to the pandemic lockdowns, has been identified, additional support has been targeted at specific individuals and groups of children. There is still some catch-up work to be done and this is reflected in the new School Improvement Plan which will be formalised in September alongside the return to a full curriculum.

It had also been very heartening to read the summary of the parent's questionnaire which has been carried out again this year. Almost everyone reported that they either strongly agreed or agreed that children enjoy school, feel safe and make good progress. There were some concerns raised about aspects of pupil behaviour, including bullying, which need to be addressed and the school will be implementing a new behaviour policy in the September, which we anticipated will help everyone understand the school's approach to, and expectations of, pupil behaviour.

As is customary at this time of year a couple of Governors are stepping down from the Board. My thanks go to Geoff Wright who has been the Archdeacon's Representative for the last five years. Geoff has also been extensively involved in supporting and delivering the school worship, so my thanks to him and Julia for their work in this area. It is hoped that the Parish will appoint a new incumbent next year

Love

Respect

Perseverance



who will then join the Governing Body, but in the meantime, Rev. Jon Marlow has agreed to join the Board until the new Vicar arrives. I would also like to thank Kerry-Anne Hatcher for her work as a parent governor and wish her and Elsie well in the move to their new school. In addition to Jon, we are also welcoming Daniel Tarrant to the Governing Body as a parent governor from September, and I am grateful to both Jon and Daniel for agreeing to become governors.

The school also has an important role within the local parish, and it was lovely to see the children's artwork in the form of the two timelines made especially for the Heritage Day held at St Mary's Stelling and St Peter & St Pauls Upper Hardres last Saturday. Representing over a thousand years of history, the timelines clearly showed how life in this area has been impacted by major historical events, including invasions, wars and the plagues of the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries. That our modern plague, COVID19, has had such an impact on our lives, and those of people around the world perhaps brings us closer to our history.

Hopefully, we can now start to learn to live with COVID as our forebears discovered how to live with their pandemics. Should it prove necessary, I am confident that the school is well prepared for any further lockdowns or restrictions and continue to provide an excellent education for our children.

In the meantime, I hope that you and your family have a good summer holiday.

With best wishes  
Yours sincerely,

*Maxine Blades*

Chair, Governing Body

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'An Outstanding Church School.' – Diocesan Inspection.

'Pupils make good progress in all parts of the school.' – Ofsted.