

## Governor Report to Parents and Carers July 2018

The Governing Body has had another successful year dealing with the serious challenges set before it. The meetings (a combined total of 16 Full Governing Body and Committee meetings) have been well attended with good participation from all governors. Whilst our role is to provide strategic direction with no involvement in the day to day running of the schools some of our governors, whose work and other commitments allow, do come into school and help wherever they can. In this way Crossways' Governors pride themselves in being seen and taking an active part in school activity thus dispelling any notion that school Governors are remote and never seen or heard beyond committee rooms. We do monitor and challenge Mr Toogood on all aspects of school output (academic and financial). This sounds combative but in reality it is done in a constructive way since at the end of the day the focus of both staff and governors is to provide a framework for our children to reach their full potential.

We have had a year of good academic results across both schools. The Junior School had its Ofsted visit in September and, like the Infant School during the last academic year, retained its "Good" status. This is the result of continuing hard work of those concerned, that is, all school staff, children, parents/carers and fellow governors.

We continue to hear of the dire financial straits of many schools. I cannot say we are comfortable but our strong finance team has effectively focussed on tight controls of our spending and ensured the best use of our funds for our children. Whilst Governors keep a close eye on the finances, the hard work of running the finances and coming up with ideas has been undertaken with great skill by Mr Toogood and the Staff around him.

As a town Thornbury has a surplus of Reception class places. However next year's Reception will be virtually full. This, I believe, is a direct consequence of the actions put in place to showcase to prospective parents/carers what makes Crossways a truly special school. The video, Fun Run, the "open" mornings have shone a light on life at Crossways and are the result of the hard work of parents/carers, staff and governors not forgetting the children who participate in the Fun Run and were the stars of our video.

We continue to operate with fewer governors than our Constitution allows. However we have welcomed to our number Julia Blois-Brooke and Matt Finch (Community Governors). Jo Hall has joined us as a Parent Governor. Vicki Vowles was appointed Clerk to the Governing Body last September. All are valuable and effective additions to our team. Unfortunately Sue Harbottle, who has served Crossways valiantly over many years, first as a teacher then, for the last ten years, as a Governor, decided to call it a day. Sue will be sadly missed.

This is my last report to you as, after 4 years, I will be stepping down as Chair of Governors though I will remain on the Governing Body. I have enjoyed every minute working with a dedicated Governing Body and would continue to do so but it is time to step aside to allow a fresh enthusiasm and some new ideas to come through. I am pleased to report that Emma Aiken-Jones (Parent Governor) is the Chair-elect and will take up the post in September. I know you will give Emma as much support as you have given me.

David Jenkins  
Chair of Governors