



**Abbots Ripton Church of England Primary School**  
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Headteacher : **Mrs Claire Matthews**  
Interim Assistant Head Teacher : **Miss Slater**  
Interim Assistant Head Teacher : **Mrs Wilcock**

22<sup>nd</sup> July 2021

Dear all

I'm writing to give you all an update from the Governing Body, as another very unusual, but really successful and positive year at Abbots Ripton Primary School comes to an end. I need to start by thanking every single member of our wonderful school community for your patience, endurance and absolute commitment to ensuring that our children have continued to receive an outstanding teaching and learning experience throughout a second hugely disrupted year.

Thank you to Claire Matthews and the amazing teaching and support team at school for your inspirational dedication to our children's educational experience. Thank you to all of our parents and carers for supporting the school team and for making considerable adjustments to home and school life to ensure this. Thank you to my fellow governors for adapting to governor meetings and monitoring visits via Zoom, and for diligently supporting the school as 'business as usual' even though we have been unable to spend time in the building. And of course, a huge thank you to an incredibly resilient group of children who have continued to thrive and learn despite everything that has been thrown at them.

And the results..... well, our children have continued to make excellent educational progress this year. Although there are no 'official' statistics or results, we know from our conversations as governors and school data that the children have continued to move forward in their learning this year. Our attendance overall sits within the top 10% of all schools in Cambridgeshire, and feedback from our external advisors about the way that the school has operated has been extremely positive.

As governors, we have continued a full programme of meetings, including all sub-committees. We have continued to monitor educational outcomes for the children, the Christian ethos of the school, the impact of finances, and crucially supported in the development and implementation of the Covid-19 risk assessment for the school, including a renewed focus on wellbeing of the staff and children. We have also made some important strategic decisions this year. We are really pleased that the school kitchen is now back under the control of Jo Brown and her team, rather than an external provider, and we hear that the children are very much enjoying the changes. With our older children still eating in 'bubbles' we haven't been able to do a full re-launch of our menu but we hope that this will be possible next term. We have also, of course, made the decision to allow the construction and operation of a new nursery school within the school grounds. This was a lengthy and thorough process, and involved a great deal of wide stakeholder involvement. We believe that having a nursery on site will bring huge advantages to the school, and will hopefully secure our long term sustainability.

As always, we have some goodbyes to say at this time of year, particularly our brilliant Year 6 children who leave us to start the next chapter of their education. Good luck to you all!

We do of course look forward to welcoming our new Foundation children to the school in September, together with a number of new children who will be joining us as part of other classes.

Thank you all once again. I wish you all a safe and enjoyable summer holiday, and look forward to working with you all next year.

Very best wishes,

*Robin*

Dr Robin Price, Chair of Governors

*Our church school creates a firm foundation where together, with God's help  
and with the help of others, we learn for life, achieve our best and grow in faith.*

