

Cupernham Infant School

Together we care, we learn and we enjoy success

Headteacher: Mr Duncan Wells



Monday 9th September 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

As we begin this new academic year there are some new people I'd like to introduce to you but, firstly, I would like to extend a warm welcome, on behalf of all of the governors, to our new Year R families. I recall the worries associated with settling my daughter into school so I fully appreciate this can be an anxious time from a variety of perspectives. I feel confident however, that our lovely Year R team, under the leadership of Mrs Platt and Mrs Parry, will help both you and your children feel at ease as quickly as possible. It never ceases to amaze me how resourceful and robust our Year R children can be.

The first introduction has to be Mr Wells, our new Headteacher. As many of you will know, he hasn't come far to join us! As the previous Deputy Headteacher of Cupernham Junior School, he is already familiar with our school ethos, our staff and many of our children's families. We are delighted to have found a new Headteacher who intuitively understands our school and who we feel will work with us to continue building upon Mrs Clark's and the staff's amazing work. Welcome Mr Wells!

Next, I would like to update you on changes within our school's governing body. To do this, I must firstly thank Nicole Dawson for her significant contribution to the smooth running of the school as the Chair of Governors for the past 2 years. Thankfully, she is continuing to support us as the Vice Chair this year as we maintain and build upon the high standards that Ofsted acknowledged during the summer. On a personal level, I am also grateful that she will be around to support us as I settle in as your new Chair of Governors.

My name is Dawn Astle-McDonald and I have been a governor for nearly 4 years. In preparation for taking on this role, I worked as Vice Chair last year alongside Nicole to try and ensure a seamless transition. I am also the Chair of the School Improvements Committee and the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) governor. Prior to becoming a mum, my professional background was ex-military as an air defence specialist in the Royal Navy. However, now that my daughter is getting older, I am now re-training to become a Health Psychologist. As a result, I have a range of experience and a passion for Cupernham Infant School that I plan to put to good use as your Chair of Governors.

We, the governors, will be concentrating on supporting the needs of your children as we look forward to this new chapter in the school's life with Mr Wells at the helm. I apologise now for smatterings of nautical references that will undoubtedly creep into governor newsletters! As Mr Wells settles in, we also welcome Dorothy Baverstock as our new Local Authority governor. Her experience as the previous Mayor of Romsey and the combination of her roles as a councillor and her new school role will be invaluable as we continue to develop our work with communities outside of Cupernham Infant School.

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Additionally, we will also be looking for new governors to join our team so, if you are interested in considering this role and would like more information, please pass your name and contact details to me via the school office.

I will send out regular governor letters to you all, but, for now, I wish you and your children a smooth return to school as they enter their new year groups.

Kind regards,



Dawn Astle-McDonald

Chair of Governors

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