



Dear Parents and Carers,

Where has this first half term gone it really has flown by. All the children and staff have done fantastically well in what has been a very long start to the new academic year, but one that has been packed full of lots of exciting activities. As an ever-growing school it has been great to see so many new faces both pupils and staff in school all of whom have settled in well to school life at Athelstan.

Year 6 children enjoyed an action-packed week at Kingswood, it was another brilliantly well organised visit with lots of opportunities to build relationships with new starters and old friends ahead of what is a very challenging year for the children. A really big thank you must go to the staff who voluntarily give up so much of their time so that the trip ran so successfully.

The governors would like to congratulate all staff and children who helped create yet another masterpiece in the form of this year's big picture. Each class in school took a section from a piece of art work and have blown the picture up to create a spectacular 10ft work of art. As an Arts Mark School our 'Big Pictures' really demonstrates the passion the school has for creativity and the arts in general. So a massive well done Athelstan, you are certainly demonstrating your ability 'to be the best that we can be'.

Year Six children have also been given the chance to gain some valuable life skills in the form of Bikeability, the children got the chance to cycle on the public highway (closely supervised). Developing a rounded child, someone who has a range of opportunities is something that the Governors and staff feel is very important to compliment the academic attainment of our pupils.

The Governors have also being very active as well as our regular meetings we have had an additional meeting to enable us to really focus our thoughts and energy on areas where we as Governors can further support the school in its aim to become outstanding. We looked at key areas of the school's Evaluation and Vision Plan and have identified areas where our roles as Governors and critical friends of the school can be have most impact. With all of the hard work of pupils and of staff at Athelstan we are extremely confident that the school will continue to make progress, developing further the areas already assessed at outstanding and moving the school to outstanding in our already very good areas.

Parents' Evening, with its new more universally accessible format in the main school hall, went extremely well with a selection of governors in attendance over the two evenings, it was lovely to see so many families and children getting such positive feedback from their teachers.

The Book Fair was extremely popular with lots of exciting books and magazines being purchased to read at home and raising funds for more books in school.

Kind Regards,

The Governors