



SUMMER 2023

Word from the Chair

As we approach the end of the academic year, I wanted to write to you all to reflect on the year we've had, and to wish our Year 6 Leavers the best of luck in their exciting new chapter at secondary school.

This year has been a year to remember for Alban City School. From the school obtaining its Green Flag status (with distinction!), to the football team and cricket team winning the league for the first time, there have been many achievements worthy of note (not to mention an Ofsted inspection to round off the year!).



It all started with us being able to share our wonderful KS2 SATS results last Autumn - the results being not only well above the national average but also well above the Herts average. We truly believe this is, in part, a reflection of how well the school coped during the pandemic, doing all they could to minimise the disruption to the children's learning. Not to mention the hard work the children put in.

However, as we all know, a school is so much more than its results. And from my visits to the school, I am always delighted to see so much evidence of happy, well-rounded children with an increasing number of opportunities available to them. Each time I go into school I am struck by the music filling the corridors - most recently the sound of



ukuleles - and the number of events taking place, whether it be sharing assemblies, school plays, a visit from the Arsenal Women's Football Team or the recent Summer Fair which I was privileged to be a small part of.

The school has been open for 10 years now and I, along with all of the other governors, am very proud of all the school has achieved in that time. It goes without saying that we have the leadership team (past and present) to thank for that, along with the teaching staff. But it goes (cont'd)



further than that. We are lucky to have a wonderful and dedicated team of office staff, catering staff and Mr Edwards, as well as an active PTA and supportive parent body. I would like to say a special thank you to all those parents and carers who give up their time to come in to read with the children, accompany them on school trips, or come in to talk to them about their job/hobbies. All of this is of huge benefit to the children and plays a big part in making the school the success it is today.



As many of you will know, a pressing issue for us right now is the fall in birth rate across Hertfordshire and the impact this is having on admission numbers and, in turn, funding. Please do continue to spread the word about our wonderful school, so we can carry on providing the same quality of education to as many children as possible.

Sadly, we shall be saying farewell to Claire Toms, Amanda Molvik and Chloe Ellis this summer. Claire has contributed so much to the school, not only as a governor but also as a parent. Not least with the amazing art projects she completed with the children to mark our 10 year anniversary. Amanda has brought such energy and enthusiasm to the governing board, especially with regard to the Music offering at school, and Chloe has acted as a valuable link between staff and the governing board. We shall miss them all.

On behalf of all the governors, I wish you and your families a very happy summer holiday and look forward to seeing what the next academic year brings for Alban City School.

Paula Willoughby

Spotlight on Science



As a STEM Ambassador and Link Governor for Science, I have visited the school several times this year. I have been privileged to give talks to Years 4 and 5 on the immune system, light and electricity and recently oversaw a STEM Day for Years 5 and 6. The children were incredibly engaged, curious and asked some great questions (some of which I had to research the full answer to when I got home!). This was amazing to see.



When meeting with the school's Lead for Science, it became clear that the recent introduction of more practical work has helped our children to develop a curiosity and deeper interest in the world of science, whilst being able to apply and solidify their newly-acquired knowledge. Year 6 couldn't wait to tell me all about the heart dissection they had recently done! We now have a dedicated science cupboard full of equipment for all years' practical work, covering all aspects of the science curriculum. I could see that the children are being pushed to acquire more (cont'd)

autonomy in their scientific method, but equally that children are being supported in accessing the same knowledge with a tailored approach that works for them. I'm looking forward to visiting again and learning more about the science offering at ACS.

Rob Crick

Flower Meadow

Art installation led by Claire Toms, Governor



Getting to Know Our Governors



Peter Harris

Favourite St Albans restaurant: Tabure - try their Pisco Sour and the Aubergine Kumpir; but, to be honest, all their food is delicious.

Favourite book: Les Misérables. I'm on a mission to only read classics and although the size of this book was intimidating, I still think about the story 10 years on from when I last read it.

Favourite film: I would probably say Stand by Me, as I'm a big fan of coming-of-age films (but I also love action classics like Indian Jones, Bond, Ghostbusters...).

Why did you become a governor at ACS?: It sounds cliché, but it was to give back. The staff at the school have done so much for my children, so I wanted to give up some of my time to help them the best I could.

What areas do you focus on?: Maths is my link subject, but due to my background I lean into the marketing side too. I also enjoy discussion around budgets and making sure we're appropriately spending the funds available.

What is your favourite thing about ACS?: The teachers and the staff, from Lucy in the office, to Mr Edwards at the gate and Cathy and Gilly welcoming us each morning, everyone is so hard working but maintain an incredible level of stoicism despite all the pressures they are under.

Describe yourself in three words: Dad, Manager, Governor.