



CLIFFORD ROAD GOVERNING BODY

Summer Term 2009

Dear Parents and Carers

At the end of another busy term and school year, the Full Governing Body met on 25th June to reflect on many of the achievements and successes at Clifford Road over the past 12 months and also to plan ahead for the next academic year. Over the summer, the School will undergo some building work to create a new outdoor learning area outside the current Class 4. This classroom will then be used for the Reception class giving them permanent access to an outdoor area – one of the improvements recognised by OFSTED in their visit earlier in the year.

The Full Governing Body also approved the proposal to appoint Sally-Ann Roberts as Acting Deputy whilst Helen Wilson carries out the role of Acting Head at The Willows Primary School. This is important for two reasons – firstly we are very proud that Helen Wilson was approached to carry out this role, it shows the high-regard for the leadership of Clifford Road within Ipswich. Secondly, we were able to appoint a strong and forward-thinking Deputy from within our own Clifford Road team, again a mark of the strength of the School's staff.

At the meeting, we also reflected on the Clifford Road ethos – you will have noticed that our school motto changed from '*Working together the sky's the limit*' to '*Celebrating achievement in all*' earlier in the year. This marked a new era for the school and we have also developed a short piece of text which sets out how we see Clifford Road. It will be included at the beginning of our plans and policies and, we hope you will agree, sets out a really positive vision for the School and the Clifford Road community.

At Clifford Road we want to encourage and develop a love of learning for our pupils that will stay with them throughout their lives.

Our aim is that they are healthy and safe, that they enjoy and achieve in all that they do and that they make a positive contribution to society and have success in the future.

This is underpinned by our belief that all children should be valued and treated fairly and consistently regardless of their ability. Personal, social and health education run throughout our school and together with Special Educational needs form the building blocks that move our school forward.

At Clifford Road we aim to promote equality and tackle any form of discrimination and actively promote harmonious relations in all areas of school life. We seek to remove any barriers to access, participation, progression, attainment and achievement. We take seriously our contribution towards community cohesion.

Visit the Clifford Road website at www.cliffordroadschool.org.uk

It has been a very busy school year and we just wanted to highlight a couple of examples of how things have changed at Clifford Road:

- ⇒ When we returned from last year's summer holidays, work had been carried out in the playground and, as a result, over the year we have seen a reduction in the number of incidents at play- and lunchtimes.
- ⇒ The 'Life Channel' has enabled photos and work from the school to be displayed to parents and visitors alike. We were able to show pictures from the France trip and the recent School Sports Days.
- ⇒ The Parents' Forum and Parents' Council is having an effect on the School. As a result of the work of parents, we have received money from our local ward councillor for road safety measures and will be launching the new Homework Policy in September. The Governing Body is extremely grateful for the support and interest which Clifford Road parents show and the time that they are prepared to give to the School.
- ⇒ The OFSTED inspection identified many positive features of the School. However, we recognise the areas for improvement identified in the report, in particular the need to raise standards across the School. This is a shared priority for the Governing Body and staff as we move forward.

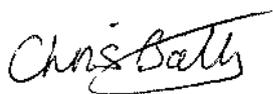
At the Governing Body recently, we also heard about how Clifford Road is getting its message out into the community. Clifford Road has a fortnightly slot on Ipswich Community Radio (Frequency 105.7FM) called Primary Time. It is broadcast on a Wednesday morning between 8 and 9 am. Shows have looked at a range of topics including what school life is like, coming to school from another country and SATs how to survive them!

And our media profile has also reached other channels. Clifford Road's Air Raid Shelter now has a feature on the BBC Suffolk Places (and History) website (http://www.bbc.co.uk/suffolk/content/articles/2009/07/03/clifford_road_shelter_museum_feature.shtml). We've also been involved in a project with Colbayns Media College in Clacton making a film with pupils past and present which will be used as a teaching resource for schools.

Finally, we have been over-subscribed in Nursery and Reception. Unfortunately, we have had to turn children away as we were full, but this shows the progress the school has made in recent years and the positive reputation the School now has locally and within Ipswich.

We hope you have found this summary useful. Should you have any questions about the work of the Governing Body or any observations that you wish to share, please do not hesitate to contact us at the following e-mail address (chris@bally3.fsnet.co.uk) or through the school.

Best wishes and have a good Summer break,



Chris Bally
Chair of Governors

Steve Wood
Headteacher

Visit the Clifford Road website at www.cliffordroadschool.org.uk