



July 2019

Dear Parent,

The governors held their annual daytime visit to the school on 4th July. Some of us met with Y6 pupils, some spoke to School Council, and we saw each class in action as well as joining the children for lunch. As ever, we were impressed by the calm sense of purpose throughout the school, the quality of the work being conducted and on display, the strong feeling of community, and the maturity of the pupils.

While we were at school, there was an unscheduled fire evacuation – one of several recently. Mrs Dury will explain the circumstances in a separate letter, but I need to advise you that a thorough survey of the school has identified many significant issues which need to be addressed to ensure the school remains fully operational. The cost of rectifying these far exceeds our capital budget, so we have submitted bids to County for funding; to date these requests have been declined. This is particularly frustrating as Herts County Council has agreed to allow £1.9 million of developers' funds from a proposed housing site in Ickleford to be allocated for primary education in Central Bedfordshire – even though children who might live on that development may attend Ickleford Primary School. You may wish to share your thoughts on this with the Executive Member for Education at County Hall (terry.douris@hertfordshire.gov.uk) and your County Councillor (details can be found on the County Council website, but the councillor representing Ickleford is david.barnard@hertfordshire.gov.uk).

Some of you will be aware of a couple of incidents which occurred on the recent Y6 trip to the Isle of Wight. School leaders and I have reviewed the processes and procedures in place for that visit, and made a number of changes for next year. These proposals were shared with external advisors – who approved of them – and Y6 parents. Where appropriate, these changes will also be included for the Y5 trip to PGL.

I would like to pay tribute to Hugo Norton-Taylor who has stepped down from the Governing Board due to work commitments, and thank him for his leadership as Chair of Governors over the recent years. We are looking to retain Hugo's legal skills on the Governing Board, so if you know of someone with that background who might be interested in being a school governor, please let us know (governors@ickleford.herts.sch.uk).

Finally, my thanks to the staff, pupils, governors and those who support the school in other ways, and best wishes to all in the school community, particularly those who are moving on.

Yours sincerely,

Miles Maxwell,
Chair of Governors, Ickleford Primary School