

Dear Parent,

I would like to extend a warm welcome to the parents of new starters at Ickleford Primary School, and welcome back to everyone else. The Governing Body is increasing its efforts to engage with parents and other members of the school community. We do this with parents by:

- Occasional letters, such as this, from the Chair of Governors
- Via the our page on the school website:
<http://www.ickleford.herts.sch.uk/about/governor>
- Providing an email link: governors@ickleford.herts.sch.uk
- Governors' attendance at Parents' Evenings

The Governing Body takes the views and opinions of everyone associated with the school seriously – for example, by thorough review of parents, pupils and staff survey data, interviews with School Council and Y6 and meetings with staff.

Social media is increasingly being used as a method of communication in the world of education. At our school, for example, I believe that parents of many Year groups have their own Facebook page. As with the use of these media in the wider world, there are major advantages to this approach, but also downsides. On rare occasions, we have been advised that social media has been used as a route to criticise the school or its staff. There are proper channels for parents who have concerns – via the class teacher, Mrs Dury, or me as Chair of Governors. I would encourage you to use these to resolve any issues.

Please be aware that if school staff discover parents have commented on school matters on social media platforms they will be asked to remove the posts by senior staff.

Be assured that the Governing Body does not wish to curtail communication – Mrs Dury's first newsletter of this year set the tone by clearly stating her availability to discuss issues or concerns.

With best wishes for a productive and happy academic year.

Miles Maxwell,
Chair of Governing Body, Ickleford Primary School