

..... A Church of England School .....

December 2019

Dear All,

I would like to offer a few acknowledgments for the end of this term.

First, to everyone in the school community for your patience and understanding while we address the infrastructure issues. These, particularly as they led to the temporary closure of the school before the interim boiler was installed, have been a significant challenge for everyone. Governors fully appreciate the impact on children, parents and staff, and it's been disappointing that we had to reach crisis point before getting the full attention of the Local Authority in helping us tackle these problems. However, we now have a very good project manager working with us, a firm commitment to a full upgrade of the central heating system, and are hopeful that the bids we have submitted for other works will be successful. Particular thanks go to Nicky Pedder for her tireless efforts on these matters, and James Mackay for his skill and creativity in maintaining the school.

We are fortunate to have such a talented and dedicated staff at Ickleford Primary School. Our teachers and TAs are the ones most of us interact with, but the smooth running of the school is also vital, and those who undertake office functions are often the unsung heroes. Accordingly, I would like to express my thanks to Mary Grist who is retiring after more than twenty years' service to the school – including time on the Governing Board. Mary is that great combination of efficiency and friendliness, and while she will be greatly missed, I know this is the right decision at the right time for her. I wish Mary a long and happy retirement.

Delivery of high-quality education doesn't happen by chance, and I am sure parents will join me in acknowledging all involved. Therefore, my thanks go to all our staff – many of whom go above and beyond their contracted hours – and governors for all their hard work in enabling our pupils to achieve such impressive standards.

Best wishes to everyone for a Happy Christmas and the New Year.

MilesMaxwell,  
Chair of Governors, Ickleford Primary School