

The Crabtree Academy Trust

Crabtree Lane, Harpenden, Herts. AL5 5PU



Crabtree Infants' School

Headteacher: Mrs Sally Patrick
Tel: 01582 623597
admin@crabtreeinfants.herts.sch.uk

Crabtree Junior School

Headteacher: Mr Andrew Emeny
Tel: 01582 623501
admin@crabtreejm.herts.sch.uk

20th July 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

So we come to the end of another busy year at Crabtree and I hope you are all looking forward to the summer holidays and that they deliver on your expectations. It has been another busy and rewarding year to observe as a governor at Crabtree Juniors. I suspect you have all had a busy half term with assemblies, performances, sports day, school trips, leavers' parties, open evenings and the like, and are looking forward to having a chance to recharge and prepare your children for next year.

I was able to watch the Year 6 Leavers' Assembly performance to the rest of school on Thursday afternoon. This was the first cohort of Infants' pupils that I welcomed to our open evening as Chair of Governors back in July 2014 and it is fantastic to see how they have grown and flourished at the Junior's. As Mr Emeny mentioned in last week's newsletter, our SATs results are a new high and we are as proud of their academic achievements as much as we are with their confidence on stage, how they have embraced art, music and sport, and the positive contribution they have made to the school community.

I hope you were able to make it to the open evening last week. It is a great opportunity to see what the children have achieved and get a preview of topics and activities awaiting them next year. The whole-school art display and musical performances were also very impressive. I'm conscious that the school only comes to life on those evenings because of the hard work behind the scenes of the staff and helpers, so a huge thank you to everyone involved. As a governor, I have the privilege of sitting in on the occasional lesson and know how much effort the staff put into the everyday life of the school; I see that in the happy and engaged children in every class. However, even with that insider view, it is impressive to walk round the school to see the breadth of pupil work showcased by the teachers in each classroom.

This has obviously been a year of change for Crabtree Junior's. What we have seen as governors this year is that the strong systems put in place by Mr Patrick continue to deliver excellent results for the pupils. The staff work exceptionally hard to meet the needs of individual pupils, to track pupil progress and react to all needs right across the year groups, and ensure your children get the most out of their time at Crabtree; academically, socially, and personally. So I would like to offer my thanks to all the staff and all of you in helping make the school what it is.

We enter next term with a new leadership structure at the Junior School. As you will have seen from recent letters home, we are hoping to recruit an Executive Head to start in January 2019, with Mr Emeny and Mrs Patrick operating in that role on an interim basis for the Autumn 2018 term. Miss Simmons will become the Head of School from September and will be responsible for leading Crabtree Juniors on a day to day basis, including taking responsibility for staff, teaching and learning and pupil welfare. She will be very ably assisted by our Phase Leaders, Mrs Meredith (Years 3 & 4) and Mrs Williams (Years 5 & 6). As always, your

The Crabtree Academy Trust

Crabtree Lane, Harpenden, Herts. AL5 5PU



Crabtree Infants' School

Headteacher: Mrs Sally Patrick
Tel: 01582 623597
admin@crabtreeinfants.herts.sch.uk

Crabtree Junior School

Headteacher: Mr Andrew Emeny
Tel: 01582 623501
admin@crabtreejm.herts.sch.uk

class teachers remain your first port of call for any discussions relating to your children, and they will bring in support from across this leadership team as needed.

Beyond the classroom, I'm very excited that we are in a position to move ahead with installing the field drainage in the next few months. We are immensely grateful to you all for your support of this project over the last year and also to the PA. The smooth running of the events through the year is testament to the PA's hard work, the parents behind the scenes and on the day, and, it goes without saying, you all turning up and spending freely. Your willingness to give generously of your time and money is one of the strengths underpinning our school community and allows us to consider the school grounds project alongside offering an enriched curriculum and funding IT equipment expenditure.

Finally, I'd like to thank all of you who completed this year's parent survey. A presentation of the results is available on the governors section of the school website. The feedback is always highly valued and helps identify areas for further development or where your experiences of what we are doing do not match up with what we were trying to achieve. Over 95% of you feel your child is happy, safe and well looked after at Crabtree and that the school instils a positive attitude to learning. With our Head of School in place after the Summer we will be moving beyond interim arrangements and will be able to provide you as parents with greater continuity of leadership. As usual, we continue to review all practices at the school regularly and will pay attention to items raised in the survey, such as information shared on your children's progress and the structure of consultation evenings.

I can't close without thanking the rest of the governing body for all their hard work this year. In September, we will be recruiting for new parent governors. I would be happy to talk to any of you over the Summer or in September about the role. The time commitment is a relatively modest one, requiring 6-8 hours every half term across meetings and meeting preparation – think of it as an hour per week, or one less Netflix box set! If you can make a little time during the day each term I can highly recommend it as a rewarding role that gives you a real insight into how the school functions and an opportunity to help shape where the school puts its priorities. It's not about being individually responsible for the school's success and all about providing the support and challenge to ensure the school does its best by our children and community.

And so I would like to close by wishing all those leaving Crabtree a wonderful onward journey. We wish the children in Elm and Elder much success and happiness in their new secondary schools next term and hope their experience at Crabtree has been an enjoyable and rewarding one. Our thanks go to our excellent and dedicated staff team and our wonderful pupils and parents and I wish you all a fantastic summer break.

Thanks and best wishes

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "P. Kendall".

Phil Kendall

Chair of Governors, Crabtree Junior School