

## Governors' Special Edition Newsletter

Well, what a year!

In September 2019, we had no idea of the unprecedented challenges we would face this year with the COVID-19 Global Pandemic and how the school's teachers, staff, parents and community would have work together in so many ways to support our wonderful children and continue their education.

During the long process of the Governing Body's investigations into whether to join a Multi Academy Trust, one thing kept coming up, it was the school's amazing community spirit. This "can do" attitude and sense of school family has significantly contributed to getting us through these challenging times.

The Governing Body would like to unreservedly thank Mrs Kimberley and all the teachers and staff for their outstanding commitment in managing a constantly changing situation over the last few months. Using their experience and innovation, adapting to meet the needs of our children and ensuring their wellbeing has enabled them to not only learn but thrive as well.

Thanks also go to our parents who have risen to the challenge of becoming home tutors and encouraging and inspiring the children to complete their work. The Teachers have been amazed at the work and standard that has been achieved.

Oh, and let's not forget our brilliant pupils! Creative, Resilient, Kind and adapting so amazingly to every challenge, we are so very proud of you all.

Let's take a moment and really celebrate all that we have achieved because we have collectively achieved so much, we have risen to the challenge and triumphed!

In amongst all this the school has gone through the process of joining the Tarka Learning Partnership Trust and the Governors would like to record a special thanks to our Office Staff; Mrs Drew, our School Business Manager and Mrs Stapleton and Mrs Bailey-Drew who have encountered many challenges during this time but have succeeded in completing all the financial, legal work and training necessary to enable us to officially join the Tarka Trust on the 1<sup>st</sup> July. Our office team have achieved all of this whilst managing the day to day operations of the school – outstanding.

The Governors are excited about the next stage in the school's journey as part of the Tarka Trust and the opportunities it will give. The Tarka Trust have provided the school with invaluable advice and support over the past few months and Mrs Kimberley and the teachers have also been able to work in partnership with the other schools within the Trust sharing experience and knowledge to the benefit of the school.

At the end of this term we will be sad to say goodbye to our Deputy Head Ian Blair and Simon Bell who was also a key member of the Governing Body. Both have made such a tremendous contribution to the life and work of the school over the years and will be greatly missed but we wish them well in the next chapter of their lives.

We say a fond farewell to teachers and staff who are leaving and Year 6 Pupils that are off to start the next page of their school story, we will miss you all and wish you every success.

We look forward to welcoming our new staff and children in September, we have another exciting year planned and our “new normal” will just become our “normal” striving to be the best we can be, inspiring others, rising to challenges and being kind to all.

We hope that everyone will be able to make the most of the summer, especially as the restrictions are being slowly lifted and we look forward to seeing the children back to school in September.

Stay safe and well, have fun and make amazing summer memories.

Annette Burgess – Chair of Governors.

Special welcome from Andy Cotton, CEO, Tarka Learning Partnership Trust....

### **The Tarka Learning Partnership welcomes Fremington Community Primary School to our family of schools and partners**

**Dear Parent/Carer,**

I am really delighted to announce that Fremington Community Primary School is now a partner school in a local Trust of schools. The Tarka Learning Partnership, a school Trust dedicated to supporting North Devon schools, was formed in 2018. I would like to formally welcome Fremington Community Primary School into the Trust from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020 following approval by the school's governing body, the Board of Trustees and the Secretary of State. We are delighted to be working with the community of Fremington and the local area to support the children, staff and parents.

Following consultation with staff and parents this year and further discussion with other schools in the partnership, the school is now a full and constituent partner in the Trust. The uniqueness of what makes Fremington school and its community special is something we want to foster and develop in the years ahead. The partnership has been working with the school for the past few years to ensure this is right for all parties.

Eden Park Academy, North Molton Primary School, Sticklepath Community Primary Academy, Landkey Community Primary Academy, Roundswell Community Primary Academy, Newport Community School Primary Academy and the Park Community School have been working together for the last 3 years to assist in the formation of this local Trust.

Over 50% of schools and more than two thirds of pupils nationally attend Academies with only a few secondary schools in Devon remaining under local authority control. The Trust

gives us the opportunity to support the development of partner schools ensuring that the leadership and resources of the Trust remain focussed at the heart of our community, where the Trust can support the education and welfare of your son or daughter from primary school until they leave. We will work with Pilton Community College and of course the Park Community School to support local transition as well as other local secondary schools.

The Trust has already begun to work with Fremington Community Primary School, supporting their excellent work during the current COVID-19 pandemic, as well as beginning to consider the plans for supporting pupils in the new academic year. Our family of schools will benefit from locally based support services, which are in sharp decline across Devon. Support services such as school improvement, educational psychology, governor support and training, finance, HR, premises development, teacher training and direct services to children and families have been created.

Fremington is now officially a new school through their academy conversion process and their previous Ofsted inspection report, although relevant, will be archived on the Ofsted website.

The pupils and staff at Fremington Community Primary School have been most welcoming and very open to the support and challenges ahead; it has been a joy to work with them on the initial phase of formation. Every time I come to the school I am impressed by warmth of my welcome, the personal confidence of the children, their openness to converse and their sense of enjoyment. I know that the Trust and all constituent partners are looking forward to working with the school's community in this new era, safe in the knowledge that we have already collectively built a supporting structure to empower the future development of Fremington and the wider family of schools. I know that the school will also bring its strengths to the Trust and support colleagues at other schools. Working collaboratively means we can share good practice and support schools in the heart of the area.

I wish you and your family a safe and happy summer.

Your sincerely,



Andy Cotton

CEO

Tarka Learning Partnership

