



## Governors' Update

15<sup>th</sup> December 2021

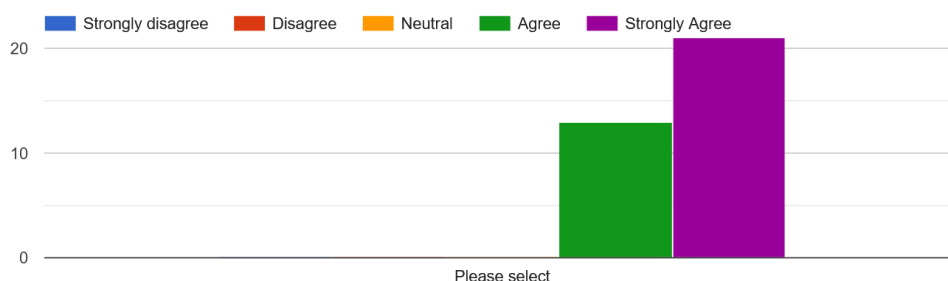
Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for all your help and support for the school throughout the autumn term and for everything you have done for our wonderful community. I know that so many of you work hard in helping with school events like the Christmas fair, and we were so lucky that the fair could go ahead this year. Thank you particularly to everyone who made the Christmas market concept work so well, lighting up a dark evening after school and reminding us of how lucky we are to be able to gather together as a community.

### Survey of parents

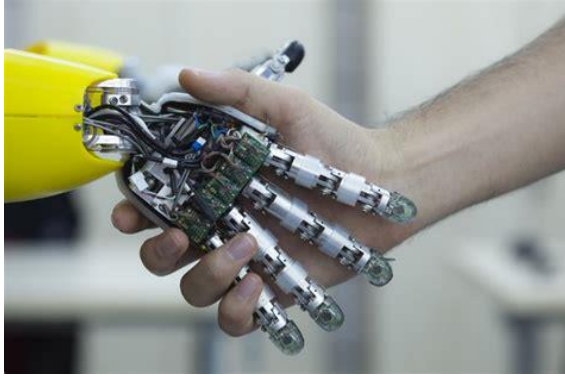
Each year the governors ask parents for their views on the school. Thank you to everyone who has responded to this. As a board of governors we spend time analysing and discussing the outcome of this and considering all the comments. I can't yet publish the full set of graphs as the survey has only just closed and the governors have not had chance to discuss this in detail. I will share just one graph with you today. The first duty of a school is to keep children safe and ensure that they are well looked after emotionally. A child who is, for example, anxious will not make as much progress in their learning.

My child is well looked after at this school and their emotional and physical well being are taken care of



## Visit to Year 6

I was invited to chat to year 6 in early December and I talked about some areas of my consulting work that are very important to me - robotics, automation and artificial intelligence. We talked about where the concept of efficiency began (which can be traced back to Adam Smith in 1763) ... and then we covered some of the big questions, such as Alan Turing asking in 1950 “can a computer think?” Ultimately, we got to the question of “are you excited by robotics or worried about it?” The children had far more background knowledge of this area than I had expected and at times the questions were more like a university tutor discussion. I was so delighted with the way that the children answered my questions and their very deeply considered responses. We of course talked about ethics. In the questions we covered things like “when a machine is capable of creating another machine, who is the real ‘creator’ – a human or a machine?” One of the year 6 chess



afficionados was very interested in how a grand master can beat a chess playing machine. The difficulty being that the machine can examine more of the possible future than a human can ‘hold in their head’, but the strategy of ‘digging a hole’ that the machine will ‘fall into’ is quite a good one. I was so surprised by the maturity of understanding that the children have about technology, and I was indeed very pleased that most of the children shared my view of the future in this area as being very exciting.

## Ongoing Development of the School

It has been great to see how much the new computing suite has been used by children at all ages within the school. The outdoor area near to the reception classrooms is just about to be enhanced. For the school to keep funding these projects we will often use combined funding from the school, PTA and governor funds. Thank you so much to everyone who is contributing to the governor funds. Every penny is used for the benefit of the children.

When I look back to the Christmas newsletter from 2020 I ended with the hope that the vaccination programme would return our lives back to normal and in a lot of ways it feels quite disappointing that normality has not returned yet. But there are so many good reasons to celebrate. The vaccination programme has undoubtedly saved hundreds of thousands of lives and has allowed life to get back to a little more like normal. Let's hope that 2022 will mark a turning point when we can finally move on from the difficulties of the past two years.

I wish you a happy and peaceful Christmas.

God bless you and your family,

*Martin Parr*

Martin Parr  
Chair of Governors

