

Dear Northgate Community,

As 2018/19 draws to a close, it is time to reflect on what a busy year it has been. We will soon be saying farewell to the year 6 pupils and welcoming our new nursery and reception families. I would like to take this opportunity to share the Governors' and my thoughts from this academic year. Northgate is a hive of activity, offering our pupils such a wide range of exciting and challenging opportunities, all of which is driven by the staff's continued hard work and commitment to the school.

The Governing Body has been busy throughout the year giving up their time on a voluntary basis to fulfil and monitor the School Development Plan as well as supporting all of the school's stakeholders. Over the last year, we as a Governing Body have broadly focussed on safeguarding, health and safety, finance, and pupil progress to name a few. More specifically we have spent time looking at risks to the school, such as funding cuts, emergency response plans and how we can support Mrs Tanner and her team in embedding the new Ofsted criteria ready for the new academic year. More recently we have thoroughly enjoyed speaking with pupils and listening to what they love about coming to Northgate and how they think the school could improve. Above all, it is lovely to hear that pupils enjoy coming to school and that they feel safe when at school.

Thanks to an immense amount of hard work by all staff the children have had the opportunity to participate in a huge variety of enrichment activities which make Northgate a such a fantastic school. The children have done well in sports competitions, music shows and of course the wonderful year 5 and 6 play. Other examples include the fun of Science Week and International Week, where it was wonderful to sample some delicious culinary delights, arts and crafts and of course listen to the children sing in a variety of languages. The school has developed parental engagement further, with parents and carers being given the opportunity to read / play maths games and participate in shared writing with their children. We hope you will continue to support these initiatives moving forward as the children certainly enjoy them.

So, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Tanner, the SLT team and all teaching staff for their enthusiasm, commitment and hard work that they have shown throughout this last academic year in teaching the children to such a high standard. We also need to remember the non-teaching staff, within the school who work tirelessly behind the scenes, I would like to thank each and every one of you for your input during the last year.

Sadly we have to bid farewell and goodbye to the following members of the Northgate School Community. We would like to wish them good luck in their new ventures Mr Wilcox, Mrs Witney in their new schools, Miss Hathaway in her move to the private sector, Miss Nash in her move to Norfolk, Mrs Molyneux with the impending arrival of twins! Also, to Mrs Hagger, who will be missed in the office.

It is also, the time of year again when we say farewell to a very special group of children our Year 6 pupils and their families. Our Year 6 both individually and collectively have achieved so much. Their level of personal development, alongside their academic achievement has been excellent. We wish you all the best in Year 7.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our Volunteers who come into school on a regular basis and freely give up their time, in either the classrooms to provide extra support to the class teacher, or with the children in out of school clubs.

Once again thanks to Mrs Piercy and her army of volunteers on the PTA who have been able to provide a wide range of resources for the children during the course of this year.

A personal thanks to all of the members of the Governing Body for all of their support and commitment that have given to myself and Northgate during the last academic year.

I would like to wish you all a safe and happy summer, I do hope that the sun decides to stay in the UK and that you all come back rested and refreshed, ready for the next set of challenges in September.

Best wishes  
Sarah Cran  
Chair of Governors