8th March 2016

Dear Parents/Carers

**Bullers Wood School: a Letter from the Governors to Parents**

**Who are we?**

Bullers Wood currently has 16 Governors, drawn from the local community, parents and staff, with a range of business and professional skills. Four of the Governors are parents and elections for Parent Governors are held as and when necessary. This ensures that the interest of parents are fully engaged on the Board of Governors. The Governing Body is chaired by Len Webb, a local businessman whose daughters attended the school. Further details are set out on the school’s website, under the section headed “Community”. Their role is to ensure that the school operates in the best possible fashion to secure the best for all its pupils. The school provides a wide range of activities yet maintains and indeed improves its academic standing. The high academic performance is just one illustration of the teachers’ commitment. The Governors are proud that the school is able to retain such dedicated staff to make sure this continues. Although we are a diverse group of individuals with a range of skills and interests, we are united in our pride in Bullers Wood School in all its facets and our determination to keep Bullers Ahead.

**How often does the Governing Body meet?**

The full Governing Body normally meets twice each term, with the Headteacher and the three Deputy Headteachers also in attendance. In addition, some of the Governors meet regularly on the following sub-committees:

 1. Buildings, Health and Safety: this committee looks at issues such as plans for improvements in the school’s buildings and ensures that adequate health and safety policies are in place.

 2. Finance and Audit; working with the school’s Finance Department, this committee reviews our finances, including our annual budget.

 3. Achievement and Curriculum: this committee reviews our curriculum plans, academic results and the school’s procedures for assessing teachers’ performance.

 4. Pupils, Parents, and Community: this committee ensures that we have the right policies and procedures in place in relation to our key stakeholders.

By virtue of these sub-committees, the Governors are able to monitor the whole range of school activities and ensure that the highest standards are met in all facets of school life.

**Finance**

One concern that is pre-occupying us currently is ensuring that the school has enough income to undertake everything we want to do. As everyone will realise, times are hard and Bullers Wood School has to make sure, like everyone else, that it can balance its books. With this in mind, we have set up two new groups; a Strategy Group to organise our financial planning and a Fundraising Group to pursue additional funding from whatever sources can be found. We have recently joined forces with Easyfundraising which enables everyone to contribute painlessly to the school through on-line shopping – the scheme doesn’t cost anything so take the opportunity to assist your school.

**Friends of Bullers Wood (FoBW)**

All parents and carers are automatically members of FoBW. This is a charity which undertakes fundraising by its support of many functions of the school and contributes funds to so many worthwhile projects undertaken at the school. It is sustained by its regular volunteers who would always appreciate more parents joining them to enhance its raising of funds. Additionally it provides the opportunity to commit a small amount each month under its Gift Aid scheme. This is an excellent (and tax efficient) way to show regard for the school activities and a form is attached herewith.

Please check the school website <http://www.bullerswood.bromley.sch.uk> for further information.

Yours sincerely

David Chandler

on behalf of the Governing Body