



March 2019 Message from the Chair of the Interim Academy Board (IAB)



Judith Johnson

Independent Chair of the Interim Academy Board (IAB)
St. Margaret Clitherow Primary School

We are delighted to report that we had the second termly review of the school improvement plan at our March meeting and the number of outstanding issues was very few and could be counted on one hand and there is still time to go to enable these areas to be fully embedded.

I mentioned last time the excellent development work that has been done by the staff team - led by our Assistant Head Ms. Dudman. An Assessment Tracker has now been developed for all subject areas and has received very positive feedback from our Educating and Standards Manager at the CAST Trust. This enables our teachers to check regularly that your child is absolutely on track in their learning and quickly work to fill any gaps in understanding, knowledge or skills that may appear.

Our work in Early Years is rapidly developing under the leadership of Ms Stone and we are much more confident in the foundations for learning that are being laid now for all those children in Class 1.

Phonics work is really pleasing now – I had the privilege recently of observing a session where I saw some of the best work in this area I have ever seen – I felt like I was sitting in a master class! The acceleration in speaking, listening and language development is obviously improving as a result of that work.

The Guardian Group are in the process of signing off the design for the outside area to the left of Reception and we have contractors on standby to do the work as soon as the design is approved so it will be a pleasant area for at least some of the summer term

We all hope that you have a restful and enjoyable family break over the Easter period and your children – especially the year 6s come back ready for the SATs in May. To support your child getting their best possible results and fulfilling their potential for secondary education next year. we do encourage you to make full use of the revision and support materials from the school to ensure that your child maintains their learning over the holiday period – particularly in mathematics.

For the younger children and especially those in Year 2 please continue to support them in their development of Phonics work and ask the school about any holiday ideas for Phonics work that you can help your child with so there is no slippage backwards for the summer term.

As always, thank you for your continuing support for the school and its journey to Outstanding success. We do not have an IAB meeting in April due to the holiday period, but we do meet again in early May.

Judith