Dear parent/guardian

I would like to introduce myself as the new Chair of Boxmoor Primary Governing Body by first of all thanking Christina Shearer for filling that role so successfully for the past nine months. Christina had not been a Governor before let alone a Chair, so taking on that role was quite a challenge. Her background in education and attention to the detail in improving teaching standards and attainment levels was exactly what we needed. Christina would go away and attend the numerous training courses and briefings on the new policies, translating them for us into meaningful objectives. I would also like to introduce Jane Read who will be taking over my position as vice-chair. Jane is one of our parent Governors and has been with us for eighteen months.

I was appointed to the Governing Body by the local education authority some fifteen months ago following a plaintive call for help. I had previously been a Governor at two other local primary schools and it was strongly suggested that I needed another challenge. The size of the challenge only became apparent when having not even been into the school, I found myself showing prospective candidates for the vacant head’s position around.

During my period here we have implemented wide ranging changes to most aspects of the school, much of which is of great structural (if not always visible) importance. Those who have been at the school for some time will have noticed the outcomes if not the changes themselves. I don’t know (nor pretend to know) much about education, my background being IT systems, business process, project management and finance. I am an engineer by trade and nature, always looking for and solving problems. My old sales director used to call it ‘management by walking’ - wandering around seeking out people who have solutions looking for problems. I think those talents are best used in developing a stable and efficient school, in which the staff can get on with doing what they do best - educate to a high standard but at the same time create time, space and resources for your children to do the more fun things in life.

It is a real honour to be involved with the school, I have met nothing but a welcoming smile. Do get in touch via the office if you need to discuss anything but please be aware that you will probably be allocated something to do.

Yours faithfully

John Eardley

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Chair, Governing Body Boxmoor Primary school