Parent Council Annual Report 2020/21

On behalf of the Parent Council, I would like to thank Mrs Hyslop and all the staff at Davenham Primary School for their tremendous efforts during this academic year.  As Chair of the Council, I would also like to thank all the Parent Council representatives who have given their time and support over the last 12 months. The success of the Council is dependent on the combined efforts of both staff and parent volunteers. These unusual times have further highlighted the effectiveness and value of this communication platform at Davenham school. The Council met half termly via Zoom, and the meetings were always well attended by the existing members. A body of representatives continues to exist, and parents/carers are encouraged to contact any representative, irrespective of their class or teacher.  This has worked well over this past year and will continue; however, I am also pleased to report new volunteer interest for the coming academic year, which will hopefully bring a range of views and new ideas.

It has been another unprecedented year for all schools, whilst the nation has had to learn and adapt to life during a pandemic, and face the challenges and difficulties brought with it.  Davenham Primary School, along with every other school across the country, was directed to close by the Government for a second time on 5th January 2021 in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19. It did not reopen again to all pupils until 8thMarch 2021. The school also had to work around immediate bubble/class closures, and this was executed extremely effectively and with minimum disruption to the children and their learning. Just because the school was physically closed, I am happy to say that the exceptional levels of education and school-home engagement were maintained at Davenham.

Google classroom was used during any closures and included pre-recorded lessons, which received great feedback and were all designed to high quality. Daily zoom class meetings were held each day in order to ensure children still saw their teacher and classmates, this was also very well received. Parents evenings went ahead with the help of a new system, which worked well and ensured that even with restrictions in and around school, parents were able to continue to have a parents evening with their child/s teacher.

For the very first time the early years and KS1 Christmas shows were recorded and sent out to parents with a code to watch at home, which again brought great praise from parents/carers, as many, especially parents of reception children were concerned that they would miss out on these primary school firsts.

Twitter continues to be utilised to a greater extent to ensure and maintain the connection with local community in Davenham, and I am happy to say that some really lovely updates are posted on there. Feedback from parents during the school/bubble closures was that communication from school had been ‘excellent’ and how amazed parents were at teachers going above and beyond to ensure activities and events still went ahead, including sports days, the summer fayre, year 6 leavers activities, class photos and the year 6 play. The Council was able to support school during this period by providing feedback at the zoom meetings, particularly regarding things that were working well given the restrictions still in place in school.

The Parent Council are happy to be back in school for our meetings going forwards, and it is hoped that children will now be able to have some long-term consistency in and around school, and together we can enjoy all the things that make Davenham such a special place, such as, worship, singing and family services - all of which will help to provide the best possible learning environment and opportunities for our children.