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**Acting Headteacher:** Mrs N Green



**Cleves School**  
**Oatlands Avenue**  
**Weybridge**  
**Surrey**  
**KT13 9TS**

Summer 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that you and your children have enjoyed the year that is ending at Cleves. And I would like to thank you for your support in a year that did not turn out as trustees had expected. I am sure you will join me in thanking Mrs Green for her work as Acting Headteacher; and Mr Hodges for returning as a consultant Headteacher when, late in the day, the Headteacher we had appointed decided not to join us after Easter. Sincere thanks also go to other senior and middle leaders who have stepped up and/or come in in recent weeks – in particular (though not only) Mrs Flaherty, and Mrs Williams and Mrs Wilson (of the Bourne Education Trust).

Over the past year we know that children have continued to have an excellent education and a huge array of extra-curricular opportunities. This is due in large part to the commitment and enthusiasm of all of our wonderful staff, who go the extra mile to make Cleves special. So I would like to take this opportunity to say an especially warm thank you to every single one of them for all their contributions to the Cleves' community this year. Whether they are on the front desk, in the offices, taking care of the grounds, in a classroom or leading sporting activities they have all worked hard to ensure all Cleves' children make as much progress as possible and are supported to thrive in every way.

I also want to thank all of you for the many ways in which you support the school and your children. This support for your children's learning and the school ethos is intrinsic to the school's success. Many of the school's enrichment activities, trips and residentials could not take place without your help; and at a time when school budgets are worryingly under pressure your support for the PTA is more essential and more appreciated than ever before.

Just three penultimate points:

- we are greatly looking forward to Mr Skehan joining us as Headteacher in September and are delighted that he has already spent a lot of time in school and in contact with school leaders and trustees, so that he can hit the ground running. You may have noticed that Mrs Green has been absent recently, and we look forward to her returning in September.
- trustees and school leaders have given considerable thought over the past year to managing ongoing financial challenges. We are committed to retaining those features of Cleves that make it so special and to ensuring that Cleves can continue to provide the high-quality education, breadth of opportunities and support that children currently receive. Trustees have therefore decided to trial increasing the number of children in some (not all) classes in each year group to 32 (though not in year three). The impact of this on learning and well-being will be closely monitored. If the impact is found to be detrimental, then as children leave their places will not be filled and other measures will need to be considered.



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- after nearly 15 years as chair of the Board, I am resigning at the end of this term. It has been a huge privilege to chair the Cleves Board, and I can honestly say that in every dealing I have had with the parent/carer community I have encountered reasonableness, courtesy and simply a wish for Cleves to be the best it can be for every child. Thank you! I am leaving the Board with a very strong set of trustees – and the opportunity for two new parent trustees to be elected in the autumn term. I wish the Board and the school the very best going forward and am quietly confident that Cleves will go from strength to strength.

And finally: for those of you with Year 6 children, some of you will also not be part of the next year of Cleves' journey. We all hope you and your children feel proud of everything they have achieved and how they have developed during their time at Cleves, and we wish you and your child a very successful transition to secondary school, taking many positive memories with you. If you have children returning, we hope you have a restful holiday and an excellent start in September.

With very best wishes

Susan Foster, Chair of Trustees (on behalf of the Board of Trustees)

