



PRIDE IN EXCELLENCE

PURLEY OAKS PRIMARY SCHOOL
NURSERY and CHILDREN'S CENTRE
BYNES ROAD
SOUTH CROYDON
CR2 0PR

Headteacher: Mr R J Griffin, BA (Hons), PGCE, MA
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs J Poplett, BA (Hons), PGCE
Senior Assistant Headteacher: Mrs A Peters, BA (Hons), PGCE

23rd July 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

I cannot believe we are coming to the end of term already; it feels like this year in particular has flown by so quickly. This time last year, I was busy working to fill vacancies and this year we have spent time onboarding our new Governors and helping them to build relationships with the school and community. I am proud to say that we have been working very effectively as a team, learning from each other and getting actively involved in supporting Mr Griffin and the school wherever we were needed.

While there are core responsibilities as Governors, this year we had the pleasure of also supporting the school through its Ofsted inspection. We appreciate how much work and coordination is involved by all teachers and staff in preparing for a visit and it is always a great experience for us, as Governors, to be able to reflect the progress of the school through our eyes. For those of us that have been with the school for a number of years, it was a particularly proud moment to hear the fantastic feedback from Ofsted and to get confirmation that we are firmly on the path to being recognised as an Outstanding school. We congratulate Mr Griffin and all the teachers and staff for the hard work they put in everyday to keep our children safe and to prepare them for the future ahead.

While this was our clear highlight of the year, we also fulfilled our duties of reviewing the school's policies to ensure they are fit for purpose, analysing pupil progress, overseeing the finances, as well as challenging the Leadership as 'critical friends', asking for information and explanation to clarify conclusions and outcomes.

I can report our children remained safe and well looked after – an area particularly noted by Ofsted. The school's finances remain in a healthy position, however, as I noted last year, we continue to recognise that our finances are stretched and Government-imposed expenditure will have a long-term impact on our budget. Therefore, the Board continues to review finance decisions carefully, ensuring the money that is spent is in the best interests of the children and their wellbeing and progress. The school continues to look for ways to generate its own income to supplement our funding and we will continue to make the most of opportunities as they arise.

Another area noted by Ofsted was the improvement in teaching and learning at Purley Oaks and we are pleased to report how well the school is performing against its Whole School Development Plan – we will continue to review this with Mr Griffin and his team.

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As we move into the next academic year, there will be a couple of changes to our Board. Firstly, Eileen Pears will be stepping down after supporting Purley Oaks for over twenty years. She will be dearly missed and has brought such expertise and dedication to the school. For that we will be eternally grateful. In addition, I will also be stepping down – a decision that has been very difficult for me – but from starting as a parent governor, I am filled with nothing but pride when I reflect on the journey the school has gone through over the years. We have a strong governing board with diverse expertise who will continue to ensure Mr Griffin and his team get the right level of support going forward. We have elected Jan Kennard as the new Chair of Governors and Pascal Tokunaga will take on the role of Vice Chair.

So, as we bring the year to a close, I want to thank Mr Griffin, his leadership team, as well as all the teachers and staff for their commitment to continuing to raise the bar to ensure we remain a successful school.

Finally, I would like to wish all of you a fantastic summer and the whole school community the greatest of success throughout the next academic year and beyond.

Kind regards,

Jennifer Thomas
Chair of Governors