

Dear parents and carers,

I am delighted to inform you that this past year Purley Oaks has continued in its great success story. The governors recognise how fortunate we are to have such a dedicated and talented leadership with Mr Griffin, headteacher, and Miss Ellery, deputy headteacher.

The governors are very proud to work in partnership with the school and fully support the school vision for excellence for all our children through:

- Strategic overview.
- Support and challenge for the headteacher.
- Financial overview to ensure finances are well spent.

We do this seven times a year at full governing board meetings and through our committee meetings – finance (twice termly), premises (termly) and teaching and learning (four times a year). We spend at least one day a year as a governing board looking at an aspect of the curriculum. As chair of governors, I regularly meet with Mr Griffin to catch up on school events.

Other governors visit the school to keep themselves updated. Safeguarding is our number one priority and the link governor regularly visits the school for updates.

### **Teaching and Learning committee**

- Termly monitoring of attainment and progress was carried out across the whole school. The data is provided by the headteacher in a termly, detailed report. All groups are identified and scrutinised e.g. additional needs, gender, EAL and disadvantaged. Trends are noted and action put into place by the school if needed. Overall attendance data was also shared and strategies for improving it were discussed.
- School priorities, as set out in the whole school development plan, were discussed and governors were regularly updated on progress towards achieving them.
- Governors agreed to further investment in Little Wandle resources to support reading across all key stages. This has had an impressive impact on outcomes across the school.
- Governors supported the purchase and introduction of the Accelerated Reader programme. This has motivated reading amongst the children. The board will continue to receive monitoring reports on its use and impact as it is further embedded and promoted across the school.
- Two governor days were held in 2023-24. In November, governors observed maths lessons across the school and then spent time with subject leaders, discussing with them progress in the wider curriculum. Assistant headteachers also presented updates on progress in their areas of responsibility. In May, governors were able to observe the delivery of interventions

for targeted children and the teaching of reading across KS1 and 2. Senior leaders presented updates on key areas of development and resources purchased to support interventions.

### **Premises Committee**

- Last year, governors agreed to fund the opening of a second nursery class. This runs in the old Children's Centre building. It has proven to be a great success with a long waiting list!
- Governors were informed of Croydon Council's plan to update our kitchen. Different designs were considered and one agreed which is due to be installed next summer. The in-house school catering continues to be a great success.
- Regular health and safety walks were conducted with the premises manager.
- Governors received regular updates on maintenance and development work completed and planned. The window and external door replacement are due to be completed this summer by the local authority.
- Governors received regular reports from our school business leader including fire safety and external premises inspections.
- A three-year action plan was reviewed and updated to redetermine the priorities considering our budget.
- An ongoing priority is the redesign of the Brighton Road junction with Bynes Road. We will continue to liaise with the local authority highways department, director for education, councilors and MP. Unfortunately, there has been no further action taken yet.

### **Finance Committee**

- A focus on staff well-being continues.
- The school took appropriate cost-cutting actions last academic year to ensure accounts did not run into deficit. The school ended the financial year of 2023/24 with a healthy surplus which will cover costs for the foreseeable future. This surplus includes £88k for building and ground works.
- The account for water charges has been transferred from Croydon to the school. This allows us to seek best prices for this service. Difficulties within the local authority have meant invoices remain unsettled for the period 2019/20 to 2023/24. The school has made appropriate accruals for these charges.
- The school continues to receive useful income streams through various lettings.
- A termly personnel report is received which includes staff training and absence.

- Headteacher performance management was successfully conducted by the local authority improvement partner and governors.
- The annual school budget was agreed. By restructuring last year, although very difficult to do, it does mean the school's finances are secure.
- Half-termly budget monitoring conducted.
- Quarterly monitoring returns sent to Croydon for approval.
- Benchmarking exercises were conducted to compare our spending with other schools.
- Half-termly reports were received from the business leader detailing expenditure variances and the reasons behind these.

All governors undertake regular training. New governors have a two-day induction.

Mr Griffin submits a very detailed and informative report to governors each term which include attainment and progress data, standards across the school, pupil premium spending, parental complaints, achievements, behaviour and safety. These reports are always discussed at length.

All statutory and non-statutory policies are periodically reviewed.

If you have any suggestions for governors, please do not hesitate to contact me through the school office or alternatively speak to our parent governors – Ken Bazley and Farhan Sharif. We have a vacancy for a parent governor and the election will be held in the autumn term.

Governors were delighted to attend the high-quality performances throughout the year. And to hear of the successes of the boys and girls football teams, the netball team, the choir and Year 4 singing at the O2.

The end of Key Stage 2 SATs results were pleasing with the school achieving a score just above national average. The quality of teaching and learning at Purley Oaks is the main reason our children are so successful. This year, 36% of lessons observed were outstanding and 64% good. Pupil progress across all year groups was at least good.

I hope this report demonstrates why this year has been another very successful one. The children love coming to school and love learning. There is always a very purposeful atmosphere. All staff have worked incredibly hard to give the children the best possible education.

The governors wish to thank the whole team for all their hard work.

Thank you for your continued support of the school.

Jan Kennard

Chair of Governors