

Dear parents and carers,

Another year has flown by and once again, the Governors are very pleased to celebrate the schools very many achievements. We were delighted that the very many strengths of the school were acknowledged in the Ofsted report in February this year. The inspectors commented on the schools inclusive ethos, the rich and varied curriculum, the pupils exceptionally good behaviour, the high quality teaching and the excellence of the leadership.

In partnership with the school, the Governing Board fully support the school vision for excellence for all our children through strategic overview, support and challenge for the headteacher and through 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 two days a year as a whole 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.
- Governors were delighted that Key Stage 2 test results had improved and are just above the national average. Progress across the whole school is at least average or above.
- There has been a significant impact in phonics teaching, as a result of the investment in the Little Wandle scheme.
- School priorities, as set out in the whole school development plan, were discussed and governors were regularly updated on progress towards achieving them.
- Two governor days were held in 2024 -25. In November, governors observed the wider curriculum in action across the school, as well as reading lessons in Year 1. Assistant headteachers also presented updates on progress in their areas of responsibility. In May, governors were able to observe the teaching of reasoning in mathematics across the whole school.
- **Premises Committee**
- Governors received regular updates on maintenance and development work completed and planned. The replacement of all windows has now been completed by Croydon

Council. Work on the new kitchen began in the school in the Summer break. The upgrade of Year 5 and 6 toilets is also due to be carried out by the council.

- Governors received regular reports from our school business leader including fire safety and external premises inspections. Regular health and safety walks are carried out.
- A three-year action plan was reviewed and updated to redetermine the priorities considering our budget.

Finance Committee

- The end of year revenue had a carry forward of £518,224 after taking account of planned building work, self assurance pot and library resources.
- The budget for 2024-25 was set but Governors are very aware in the fall in pupil numbers across London which could impact on revenue.
- Croydon Council have finally agreed the water bills for the period 2019-24. This has given us a credit of £23,000. The school is now free to negotiate the best deal in the future.
- The school continues to receive useful income streams through various lettings. Last September, the school took over the running of after school club, POPS kids. This has been highly successful. The opening of a second morning nursery has also been a great success.
- 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
- 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 and staff wellbeing. These reports are always discussed at length.

All statutory and non-statutory policies are periodically reviewed.

As well as the above committees, Governors were delighted to attend the very many high quality performances across the school and to hear about Young Voices at the O2, the summer dance, sports day and the extracurricular activities enjoyed by the children.

This year we were very sorry to hear about the resignation of Mark Crawley who has so ably chaired the finance committee over many years. He also held the very important safeguarding role. We thank him for his significant contribution. Also Thankyou to Ken Bazley who was vice chair on the Premises committee. We will miss his expert knowledge particularly in health and safety matters.

This means we now have two parent vacancies and elections for these will be held in September. Please consider joining - we have a very committed and welcoming team on the Board and parental contributions are always so welcome. If you have any suggestions for governors, please do not hesitate to contact me through the school office or alternatively speak to our parent governor - Matthew Taylor (Year 1).

Once again, this year has been another very successful one. The children continue to love coming to school and to love learning. All the staff have worked incredibly hard to give the children the best possible education.

The governors wish to thank the whole team for all their commitment and in particular Mr Griffin and Ms Ellery for their very strong forward thinking and caring leadership. They are both hard working and passionate about the school and this comes across in the ethos and positive atmosphere in the school.

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to another great year ahead.

Jan Kennard

Chair of Governors