



Chair of Governors Report

Summer 2017

Introduction from Chair of Governors

Dear Parents,

After another busy term in the life of Heathwood Lower School, it gives me pleasure to introduce this report from the Governors to the parents.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow Governors for all their hard work and support and to Mrs Dove and her staff for all their hard work and determination to ensure positive outcomes for all our pupils.

The Heathwood PTA continues to support the school financially and socially and Governors greatly appreciate their contribution. On an individual basis, parents and volunteers generosity with time and resources is invaluable in enhancing the school life of the children at Heathwood. Many thanks for your continued support of Heathwood Lower School.

At the end of this term we will say goodbye to our current Year 4 as they embark on the next leg of their learning journey. It is a time of mixed emotions as we are happy to see them grow and move on but sad they are leaving us. We wish them the very best of luck at Middle School. We will also say goodbye to some members of staff, Mrs Holloway and Miss Blades. We wish them the very best for the future and thank them for their contribution to Heathwood.

Finally, on behalf of the Governing Body I wish you a happy and enjoyable summer holiday and look forward to welcoming you back in September.

Paula Bangs

Chair of Governors

Teaching & Learning Committee Update Summer Term 17

School Development Plan

Aspects of school activity and development are incorporated into the School Development Plan. The plan is a very detailed document prepared and updated by the Headteacher in discussion with appropriate staff. In addition to this, a number of targets, both short and long term are set by the Governing Body and these too are incorporated into the Development Plan.

The following targets were embedded in SDP Performance Management targets for all staff as appropriate.

To continue to improve outcomes in EYFS

Improve quality of teaching and learning so outcomes in phonics improve.

To maximise learning opportunities, providing challenge for More Able pupils in a curriculum which inspires to learn.

To develop a Growth Mind-set by asking open ended questions.

Inset

Sept-What's outstanding Teaching & Learning?

Sept-Growth Mind-set

Jan-RE & British Values

Easter-Growth Mind-set & More Able

July-Self Evaluation/School Development Plan, Curriculum

The Effectiveness of Leadership and Management

Governors continue to hold senior leaders stringently to account for all aspects of the school performance at Governing Body meetings and by having regular meetings with the Head Teacher and appropriate staff members.

Governors this term have carried out learning walkways with the Head Teacher; Governors have met the School Improvement Partner to look at data.

Pupil Premium: Strategies for improvement:

Whole school ethos of attainment for all.

High quality teaching for all.

Data driven and response to evidence.

Staffs have been deployed effectively, developing skills and roles. Individual targets reviewed regularly.

End of year data shows Pupil Premium children have made good progress across the school.

Sports Premium: Spending allocated to:

Future games 2 afternoons weekly (include lunchtimes & after school clubs)

Yr4 Bikeability

Leighton/Linslade Sports Partnership (staff training &CPD)

Young Leader Training

Staff to accompany competitions.

Replacement of PE resources and equipment.

Sport/Health Week

PE conference & staff release to attend

The Quality of Teaching, Learning and Assessment

Lesson Study has been completed across the school this term in place of Formal Lesson observations. Book scrutiny, drop ins and data scrutiny support the evidence of outstanding teaching,

Learning walkways have been carried out on a regular basis by Governors. Governors have seen exciting lessons and engaged children.

Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare

Overall attendance this year is 96.41%. The expectation for attendance is 95%.

No leave of absence is granted unless there are exceptional circumstances at the discretion of the Headteacher. This information continues to be shared with parents via the school newsletter.

Governors have noted pupil's attitude to all aspects of learning continues to be positive. The wall displays around the school show teachers encourage pupils to have pride and confidence in their work and achievement by demonstrating their work and learning is valued. Children know their targets and challenges.

The school environment continues to stimulate the children's interest to learn.

Governors have observed behaviour around the school is exceptional. Children are polite and well mannered.

Parental Feedback

Governors asked parents at parents evening to give feedback on how they felt the school is performing. We had 44 responses to the Ofsted parent view platform. 100% of parents would recommend this school to another parent.

Enriching the Curriculum

Trips/Visits this term

New Barn Residential-History

Gilberts Middle-Drama Production

Vandyke Upper-Science Lesson

Rushmere-Science/Geography

School Council-Student Voice

A Governor attended the New Barn Trip & Rushmere Trip

Other Enrichment events:

Fair Trade Council, Choir, Open Classroom, Pokémon

Movie Tots, Gym, Multi Skills, Kurio Club, Change 4 Life

British Values

A learning walk has taken place this term regarding British Values. It was encouraging to see that these values are introduced to pupils in pre-school at the commencement of their journey with Heathwood and as a result these values become second nature to the children as they progress through the school.

To name but a few things that are in place:-

Democracy - Election of School Council, Class Charter

Mutual Respect - Value Assemblies, School Behaviour Policy

Tolerance of those with different faiths - Multi Cultural Festivals, Themed Days, Library Books

At Heathwood we provide boundaries, to enable children to make informed decisions through our Curriculum and daily interactions.

School Council and Fair Trade

School Council and Fair Trade continue to be strong part of the ethos at Heathwood, with pupils from classes across the school elected to represent their peers. The School Council has recently taken part in the annual Student Voice Conference with other local schools and regularly meet to bring issues forward that have been raised by their year group.

Fair Trade representatives have been able to maintain their support of two children from Sierra Leone, by raising money at the weekly Fair Trade tuckshop, some of the profits are also used to invest in a Shared Interest Bank that offers low-interest loans to farmers in developing countries.

Heathwood is the only school in Bedfordshire that holds the Fair Trade Gold Standard Award, an achievement we are very proud of.

Sports Council

An exciting new development at Heathwood is the introduction of a Sports Council, which was launched at the end of April. Representatives from each

year group were elected in much the same way as the School Council and Fair Trade. It's in the early stages of development and I look forward to giving you more details with the next Chair of Governors report.

Rose Gunter

Vice-Chair of Governors

Management and Resources Committee update 2016/17

This year we have seen a proactive approach to Health and Safety. Governors have separated out work deemed to be Health and Safety risks from general wear and tear jobs in separate books. All Health and Safety concerns are treated as high priority and addressed within 24 hours of the entry to the book. Before every Governors meeting the Site Agent and a Governor meet up to go through the Health and Safety, general repairs, fire alarm and extinguisher, emergency lighting and water testing log books. All folders are now up to date with latest checks and certificates.

We have also seen that the Site Agent carries out monthly water temperature checks on all out and return water pipes. These are being documented with correct water temperatures, date, time and atmospheric temperature to allow for the data to be as accurate as possible. From this we can turn down the boiler temperature levels in the summer to save wasted energy. In the winter we are making sure that if the water is not reaching the required temperatures we can address the problem with confidence. This data also allows the School to make the most of the Legionella training key staff have completed ensuring a safe water environment for all.

A large investment was made last summer on the new wooden fence and entrance gate around the school, the hall floor re surfaced, new ramps installed, the school roof repaired, asbestos removed from key areas, the damp in the school caretakers house removed and lots more.

As always the budget is tightly controlled with a healthy end of year underspend.

The chart below shows expenditure over the past year, 2016/17.

The majority of expenditure (80%) is spent on staffing costs, with 37% of overall expenditure spent on teacher salaries and 43% on other staff costs, primarily educational support staff. Of all staff costs, 46% is spent on teaching staff and 36% is spent on educational support staff.

