



Chair of Governors Report

Autumn 2016

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.

During the autumn term the Governors have remained busy working in partnership with the school's senior management team on reviewing available school performance data, managing strategic decisions and focusing on the key areas of the School Development Plan. I am extremely pleased to report that the school continues to strive for perfection in all areas, under the excellent leadership of Mrs Dove and fully supported by a highly committed staff team. It is clearly evident that every child is given the opportunity to succeed and reach their potential whilst at Heathwood.

I am also pleased to report that the school continues to have strong links with the community. This was demonstrated by the strong level of support from parents, friends and staff attending the school Christmas Fayre. My thanks go to the PTA who continue to support the school financially and socially.

At the end of this term we will say goodbye to some members of staff, Mrs Nicola Oxley and Mrs Lynda Cripps. We wish them the very best for the future and thank them for their contribution to Heathwood.

Finally, on behalf of the Governing Body, may I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Paula Bangs

Chair of Governors

The Governing Body

The Governing Body would like to welcome Mr Paul Dicker and say goodbye to Mrs Alison Holloway who is leaving the Governing body after 6 years. The Governors would like to express their thanks to Alison. The full Governing Body meets once a term and the sub-committees once a term. Governors should spend the equivalent of one working day per year in school visiting classes and spending time with teachers and children. In reality Governors choose to visit the school more often than this, either in relation to specific issues or to view the general development of the school. The Chair of Governors meets the Headteacher informally on a weekly basis to discuss any current issues and to maintain a constant flow of information and support between the school staff and Governing Body.

Heathwood Lower Governing Body

Parent Governor

Mrs Hayley Fitch

Mr Jonathan Young

Staff Governors

Headteacher : Mrs Susanne Dove - Ex officio

Teaching Staff Representative: Mr Paul Dicker

Co-opted Governors

Mrs Paula Bangs - Chair of Governors

Mrs Rose Gunter - Vice Chair

Mr Mike Chappell

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 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, Senior Staff and have met the School Improvement Partner to look at data.

Key targets for all staff are embedded in Performance Management targets.

A Scoping Audit was carried out in preparation for an anticipated OFSTED Inspection. The result was very positive.

Extract from audit:

'A love of learning permeates through all aspects of school life. Pupils are inquisitive, motivated and ambitious for themselves. They routinely reflect on their learning and how they can improve. They use a mature range of terminology to discuss how they tackle difficult tasks and how they approach their work. They have a resoundingly positive approach to making progress and mirror the ambition their teachers have for them. Their work is beautifully presented and they care for their learning environment. They are proud to be part of their school and proud of what they can do. Leaders including Middle Leaders and Governors, have a clear view on the strengths and areas for improvement. They have led significant improvements in more recent times and continue to strive for excellence in everything. Challenges are faced strategically, with clear actions to tackle them and regular and effective monitoring. Nothing is left to 'coast', if it does not reach the high standards expected at Heathwood, leaders work tirelessly to improve it.'

Pupil Premium: Strategies for improvement:

Whole school ethos of attainment for all.

High quality teaching for all.

Data driven and response to evidence.

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

Current data shows Pupil Premium children are making good progress.

Sports Premium: Spending allocated to:

Future games

Year 4 Bikeability

Leighton/Linslade Sports Partnership

Young Leader Training

Staff to accompany competitions.

Replacement of PE resources and equipment.

Sport/Health Week

Young Leader Training

The Quality of Teaching, Learning and Assessment

Formal lesson observations across the school have taken place this term and book scrutiny continues to be a fortnightly exercise for the Senior Management Team, concentrating on targets from the School Development plan.

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

Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare

Overall attendance to date is 96.60%. 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.

The school environment continues to stimulate the interests and discussion to challenge children's knowledge of the world.

Some of the places the children have visited this term

Quarries & Rushmere. Topic - Science

Leighton Buzzard Local History Tour. Topic - History

REC Renewable Energy Centre. Topic - Science

Stoke Bruerne Canal Museum. Topic - History

Whipsnade Zoo. Topic - Understanding the World

Dell Farm Nativity. Topic PSHE/Christmas

Enrichment Activities This Term

Children in Need

Thank you Tea Party (helpers/ volunteers)

Class Assemblies

Elections for School Council, Fairtrade Council, House Captains

Extra Curricular Events This Term

Saturday morning football, run by Future Games

Lunchtimes

Choir

Football and Rugby

Run 4 Fun

Pokemon

After School

Art, Nature Explorers, Netball, Gym, Multi Skills, Change 4 Life

Our choir were invited to sing at the Dr Barnardo 150th Thanksgiving Service at St.Paul's Cathedral in October. It was an amazing privilege and opportunity for our children who were the youngest there and represented one of only three school choirs across the country.

Heathwood Fairtrade and School Council 2016/17

The 2016/2017 elections have taken place for Fairtrade and School Council representatives. The process follows that of a General Election. Candidates put themselves forward and give a brief talk about what their values are and what they intend to do if elected and then a secret ballot takes place. The elected candidates, two for Fairtrade and two for School Council from each year group, have a short meeting each week to discuss issues and plans of action.

In October the elected representatives from Year 4 went along to a National Fairtrade Conference in London. While there, they had the opportunity to work with and discuss Fairtrade issues with other children from across the South East Region. They also had the chance to ask questions of two teenage children who were visiting the UK from a cocoa plantation in Ghana.

Our pupils learnt how different their lifestyles are here in the western world compared to these two young people and the things we take for granted like, fresh water, food and electricity.

The trip culminated in the children being given a bar of Fairtrade chocolate each and a poster to be brought back to their learning environment to share with the rest of the school.