

Governors' Newsletter for Parents and Staff Summer Term 2025

As we experience yet another heatwave it is worth remembering all that has been achieved by everyone at Little Ealing in the last term and over the year. We are very proud of the progress our pupils have made in their learning this year and the outcomes in the statutory tests are a testament to the commitment of the whole school community to strive to engage, enrich and excel. Our staff have embraced working as a new team to further develop our curriculum, and teaching and learning priorities and we thank them for their determination to seek continuous improvement.

Our finances are in good shape, and we have started work on our premises improvement plan refurbishing some toilets and our intervention spaces this term. We would particularly like to thank the PTFA who have raised significant funds to improve the outside learning space for our Reception Classes which enables the outdoor learning provision to mirror that provided indoors across all three classes through the open -door approach introduced this year. The PTFA also provided the funds for the equipment that the junior leadership team requested to improve safety and opportunities to play during lunchtime and breaks and will continue to fund the work of Studio Cultivate in engaging our children in their environment.

We have set aside some of the school budget to fund a counselling service starting in the Autumn Term, increased the amount of technical support for IT and specialist support for teaching computing and recruited new staff to reduce our reliance on supply staff agencies. We will continue to work towards the priorities set out in our strategy plan which you can see in the Governors section of the school website.

The Local Authority are funding the next two phases of the roof repairs and the demolition of the old storage shed which will take place over the summer.

On our visits to school during the year, it has been a privilege to see the school policies and priorities in action and the enthusiasm of staff and pupils in embracing change and self-development.

Changes to the Governing Board

We held a staff governor election this term and welcome back Mrs Nazia Dar as our staff governor. We are saying goodbye to Simi Wang, a co-opted governor who has reached the end of his term of office. We want to thank Simi for his contribution to our collective decision making, and our strategic planning particularly on finance and digital matters. Simi will keep in touch with our progress towards these goals.

We wish you an enjoyable summer break and look forward to meeting you at the Year Ahead meeting on Wednesday 17th September.

Shirley Kenworthy-Wright, Chair of Governors

Teaching and Learning Update

The summer term saw our year 6 students sitting their SATs; pupils, staff and parents reported that the children found it a positive experience (as much as academic tests ever can be!). Governors came to the school during 'business hours' for a focus on SEND provision, and for another to look at early years provision; thank you to the school for transparency, and two well-

curated visits that showed a joined-up approach across years and a focus on continuing improvement.

The summer term is a relevant time to take a deeper look at pupil outcome data, compare against benchmarks, and explore patterns and any anomalies or areas of concern with school leaders. We continue to be satisfied that the school uses data effectively to monitor all pupils' progress and has put in place clear plans for any groups of children that stand out.

We also updated key policies relating to behaviour and relationships education; these have been approved and are available with all other policies on the school's website for parents and staff to access freely.

Many thanks and appreciation to Emily and her fellow leaders for the hard work they have done to consolidate, develop and clarify the subject curriculums this year; continuing to establish clear outcomes, capture milestones, and join up learning horizontally across subjects and vertically through all year groups.

Andrew Wood, Chair of Teaching and Learning Committee

Resources Update

It's been an incredibly active term on the resources and finance front. We kicked off after the Easter break by reviewing and ultimately recommending for approval the 2025-26 school budget. This is one of the most important tasks we do as governors as, alongside ensuring prudent management of the school finances, it sets the course for what we prioritise and invest in for the year ahead and beyond. This is where our strategic and development plans come in - guiding budget decisions against what we've collectively agreed on. At the core of this is ensuring continued quality teaching. For instance, in this years' budget we committed to further reducing reliance on agency supply staff through additional direct recruitment - both safeguarding quality and reducing financial risk - something which the SLT have already acted on.

We've also looked at how we can continue to invest in our premises and facilities. Hopefully you and your children are starting to see the benefits of these investments - from early years playground upgrades, to lunchtime activity stations - creatively and expertly organised by the junior leadership team - toilet refurbishments and general smartening-up of the building. More is planned over the summer in the entrance hall, corridors and playground. Two "thank yous" on this front. One to the PTFA and all of you for generating money that has helped fund these works. And to Kim Browne, our School Business Manager, for working tirelessly to wrangle budgets and contractors alike to complete these works.

Another strategic priority is Digital, so we have invested in both digital teaching and operational IT support, with committed funding over the next 3 years to ensure forward-looking provision. This will support areas like embedding AI literacy in the curriculum to maintaining the school's cyber security approaches - all massively important topics.

Looking ahead, we will continue to track our spend against forecast, adjusting if we need to - and continuously seeing where we can save or get more value from suppliers and contracts - so we balance our budget - and ideally add to our surplus so that we continue to invest in our amazing school.

Ben Lever, Chair of Resources Committee

Safeguarding Update

Earlier in the term, in addition to our regular termly monitoring Tanya and I spent an informative and insightful half-day visit looking at safeguarding across the whole school; we spoke to pupils, teachers, safeguarding leads, support staff to gain a thorough picture of how LEPS is creating a safe environment for learning and play, educating children on staying safe, and ensuring staff understand and follow policies and procedures. Our visit included a look at anti-bullying week, the PSHE curriculum, safeguarding procedures and policies, and how safe children feel in and out of the classroom.

We were impressed with the safeguarding culture at LEPS; in particular a lot of focus has been given to online safety with both staff and children, and it was very apparent in the answers we received to our questions.

We found that that the team had responded to feedback from last year's visit and continued to improve on an already robust approach; and that they are similarly receptive to our feedback this year. Now's a good time to thank Halina and her team for the thoughtful work they put into ensuring our LEPS continues to be safe; and that our pupils learn how to stay safe in and out of school.

Andrew Wood Safeguarding Governor.