

Governors Newsletter for Parents and Staff - Summer 2023

A very busy term!

The summer term is always busy, but this year was extraordinarily hectic with the Ealing Learning Partnership Peer Review, then SATs followed by Ofsted, all in a matter 4 weeks. Our staff have also provided pupils with numerous opportunities to visit, perform, compete and contribute to school life, thereby enhancing the skills they need to become global citizens. The Governors want to thank all our staff for their support, commitment, and contribution to our pupils and to one another during this exceptional term.

We would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate all our pupils on their achievements this year. These are many and varied and exemplified by their positive attitude and enthusiasm to learning new skills and getting involved in all aspects of their education.

The PTFA have also been very active with the excellent Summer Fete, the end of year party and the Year 6 Disco. They have raised an amazing amount of money for the school and helped everyone get involved in the whole school community. Thank you!

Some of the work that we do as Governors is outlined in the updates below. We also have link Governors who work closely with the school leadership team on mental health and well-being, health and safety, pupil premium, sports premium, diversity, EYFS and individual subject areas. There have been no changes to the Governing Board this term.

We have reviewed the progress made on the five- year strategic plan and we look forward to sharing this with you at the **Year Ahead meeting on Tuesday 19th September at 6.30pm**. Our investment in staff training in maths and phonics (ReadWriteInc) and in the new curriculum and year group leadership structure has had a positive impact on pupil outcomes.

We wish everybody a happy, restful, and relaxing summer break and look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Tuesday 5th September.

Shirley Kenworthy-Wright – Chair of Governors

Teaching and Learning Update 2023 – Katie Stone, Chair

Reading for pleasure and performance poetry have been strong themes this summer term. Children across all years have taken part in performance poetry and year 6 have been working on a Slam Poetry Project each week over six weeks with Artist in Residence Daisy Barrett-Nash. Authors Sarah Coyle, Lucy Noguera, Paula Harrison, Jim Smith and JT Williams inspired children during the fourth annual LEPS literary festival. The authors were very impressed with the children's book jackets, blurbs, ideas, and questions.

Phonics teaching remains strong and consistent with excellent Phonics Check results, testament to the hard work of the children and teaching staff. The pilot of a reading intervention through the charity, Bookmark, has been successful and will be offered for children in year 3 and 4 to ensure that all pupils can make progress in reading to access the full curriculum.

This term has also been busy with SATs in year 2 and year 6, and the Multiplication Tables Check in year 4. Teachers reported that the year 6 children coped admirably with the tough Reading paper and showed fantastic resilience and focus throughout the week.

Teachers continue to access professional development such as through maths hub training, peer reviews in history, geography and PSHE, or through the coaching model in school.

Little Ealing is proud to offer a broad and enriching education for all our pupils whether taking part in the Values art project with artist Darrell Wakelam, going on school trips, participating in sports competitions, music performances, international day, and much more. Thank you to all the parents, carers and staff who continue to support the fantastic learning opportunities in our school community.

Safeguarding Update - Andrew Wood, Safeguarding Governor

With an Ofsted inspection this term, LEPS' safeguarding procedures and practices have been under even more scrutiny than usual, and the inspectors were keen to talk to governors about how we were ensuring the robustness of the school's safeguarding practices. Halina and her team had planned an external audit of LEPS' safeguarding practices by a professional body; in the end, this was scheduled for the week in which the Ofsted inspection fell, so we agreed to postpone it to the next school year - two inspections in one week is one too many...

Online safeguarding is an increasing focus for all schools including LEPS. The online safety workshop arranged with the 'Two Johns' was an eye-opener for many parents and governors alike; new national guidance comes into force next term with changes to our responsibilities for monitoring and filtering internet traffic across the school network, and we are actively discussing how we continue to keep children safe while online at school, without obstructing their access to appropriate sites that might support their learning. As we do every term, Alex and I conducted a review of the School's Single Central record with Varinder, to ensure that anyone working with LEPS' pupils has been properly security checked and cleared.

As ever, the governing body works closely with Halina and the other safeguarding leads, and we have full confidence that LEPS continues to be a safe, engaging, and respectful learning environment for our pupils.

Resources Update – Alex Vines, Chair

Summer term is always especially busy in Resources, as our financial year does not run as per the standard school year, and instead starts in April. This is therefore the period where we formally review the full-year financial results and submit a new budget for the year ahead to the Local Authority. I'm pleased to say that, once again, we have kept our costs within the overall budget target, and the school continues to hold a contingency fund in line with government guidelines. As many of you will have seen in the press, many schools have fallen into deficit recently, resulting in uncomfortable decisions on where savings must be made. It remains our over-riding priority to ensure that we do everything in our power to prevent this for LEPS, through regular and thorough monitoring of income and expenditure,

and making prudent decisions on where we spend our money (the overwhelming majority of which goes on our teaching staff). I am also pleased to say that we have set a balanced budget for the year ahead.