

Governors' Newsletter for Parents and Staff Spring Term 2023

The Easter holidays are fast approaching, and we want to update you on the areas we have been focussing on this term. We have concentrated on the areas highlighted in our school development plan which was developed by the Senior Leadership Team following the review of our 5- year strategic plan.

Changes to the Governing Board

We welcomed Ben Lever as our latest elected Parent Governor at the end of last term, and he has taken on the parental engagement link governor role. Inara Khan has taken on the Pupil Premium link role and Yasmin Vakil has taken on our Health and Safety link role. Nazia Dar, Staff Governor has taken on the Racial Equality and Diversity link governor role, and I have added attendance link governor to my responsibilities. We are delighted that Karolina Meyer, year group leader in Year 4 was co-opted onto the Board at our meeting this week.

Income Generation Group

You will remember that as part of our 5 year strategy we wanted to look at how we can increase our income within the school budget. We were very clear that the PTFA does an amazing job of fund raising for projects and bringing the school community together and we do not want to take anything away from their remit. However, in the light of the current funding uncertainty, we felt that we should ask for volunteers from the parent body to join with some of the governors and the school business manager to form a working group to look at ways over and above fundraising to support the school finances. We held our first meeting this term and agreed that the group would concentrate on how we could generate additional lettings of our premises that did not impact on the operation of the school and existing lets and that would generate additional income after costs and that we would seek opportunities for grant funding to supplement our learning resources. We will also put together a strategy for advertising and sponsorship. If any parent wishes to join the group, please let **Simi Wang, Vice Chair of Governors** know via the school office email

information@leps.org.uk

We wish you all an enjoyable Easter break and thank you for all the support and commitment that you give to our school.

Shirley Kenworthy-Wright, Chair of Governors.

Teaching and Learning Report

The reading strategy at Little Ealing has two key elements: 1. delivering the phonics programme Read Write Inc (RWI) and 2. explicitly teaching the reading domains to help children with comprehension. The latter complements the guided reading model which is already in place.

The rigorous teaching of RWI continues to be a daily focus for staff in Reception and KS1 and teachers have enjoyed another useful development day with the external RWI consultant. Year 2 and Year 5 are trialling new resources which use characters from the 'Pawsome Gang' to understand the reading domains and the strategies needed to support comprehension.

Writing across all year groups is an area of focus. A Local Authority writing lead was commissioned to deliver training for all staff on planning for and teaching greater depth and developing a robust internal moderation process. This will help all children to realise their potential in their writing.

The local Maths Hub training and support has been invaluable for Maths Mastery. The aim of this programme is for children to leave KS1 with fluency in calculation and confidence and flexibility with number. Teachers have reported an increase in fluency and understanding already and successful use of the rekenreks (counting frames that have rows of 10 beads).

Purple Mash is the new computing scheme being used in school. It is engaging, sequential and contains progressive online safety training with all the resources class teachers need.

Governors continue to closely monitor attendance in all meetings to ensure that children are in school and able to access the full curriculum.

Katie Stone, Chair of Teaching and Learning Committee

Resources Report

This term has been a busy one for the Resources Committee. In addition to our ongoing responsibilities to monitor the operation of Safeguarding and Health and Safety, we've been focussing heavily on the future financial stability of the school. This has involved the continuing careful monitoring of expenditure as we approach our financial year end, but also a focus on the future with salary increases, rises in costs such as energy, and a well-publicised period of uncertainty around school funding (fortunately now becoming clearer). We've conducted some extensive analysis of how our costs compare to other schools and continued to project our financial position into a 3- year horizon. I'm pleased to say that we continue to operate with a small surplus, our "rainy day fund", when many schools are reporting that they are being pulled into a deficit position. However, we will continue to avoid complacency, and as we set our budget for the year ahead, we'll be continuing our role as "critical friend" for school income and expenditure.

Alex Vines, Chair of Resources

Safeguarding Report

As a Governing Board, one of our responsibilities is to ensure that safeguarding is embedded in Little Ealing's ethos, that the school has robust systems in place to keep children safe, and that those systems are well-understood and being followed by all staff.

Following last term's in-depth safeguarding visit by Alex and me, this term we have focused on two things as a governing board:

- Ensuring governors are up to date on their own training and understanding - all LEPS' governors have completed training on the government's anti-radicalisation initiative PREVENT; reviewed and accepted the updated safeguarding guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education'; and completed a course on Safeguarding for governors, so that we can ensure a continuing culture of safeguarding at LEPS
- Reviewing the processes and completeness of the central record that LEPS keeps of all its staff and volunteers. That ensures anyone working at LEPS as a member of staff or volunteer has been fully vetted and cleared before they are able to work with our pupils.

We continue to communicate closely with Halina and her team, and are impressed with the focus they place on safeguarding at LEPS. The school has robust processes, takes the safety of its pupils extremely seriously, and it's great to see a forward-thinking focus on safeguarding, mental health and wellbeing that reaches into the curriculum in areas like PSHE and computing.

Andrew Wood, Safeguarding Link Governor