

Governors' Report to Parents and Carers December 2016

I'm delighted to introduce the second report of the academic year 2016-17 on the work of the governing body.

Full Governing Body

The full governing body met twice this term.

We considered reports detailing pupil progress during block one and improvement plans for block two. The senior leadership team have provided governors with excellent reports and we fully supported the emphasis in block two on basic skills combined with preparation for assessment tests. Senior leaders and governors have agreed some challenging targets that are consistent with national standards. Given that this is the second year of current measures for progress and assessment we have been reassured that the gap between teacher assessment and achievement is closing.

Governors also agreed the pupil premium strategy report in which there is detailed assessment of the impact of actions taken last year and agreed expenditure for this year. These reports can be found on the school website.

We reviewed a number of important school policies, such as the Behaviour for Learning Policy, and ensured that these policies meet mandatory requirements set out by the Department for Education. Key policies can be found on the school website.

Resources Committee

This committee, chaired by Kevin Hartley, has maintained its strategic oversight of financial resources. In particular we have kept our focus on the need to monitor spending so that pupils receive the best education possible. To this end we agreed to extend the temporary contracts for two Learning Support Assistants in order to provide further support for children taking SATs tests. The School's Business Manager presented governors with an update on our spending and a budget monitoring report. At the meeting in November it was agreed to make small changes to our charging policy; details can be found on the school website.

The committee also considered work on the premises and we were pleased to hear of an update to the accessibility plan. Maintenance carried out over the summer included installing a ramp into Brunel/Zephaniah and a further ramp to Brunel classroom.

Performance and Standards Committee

At the time of writing the Performance and Standards Committee had not met since the planned meeting was changed to the last week of term in order to allow governors to attend an important training meeting. We will update on the work of the Performance and Standards committee in the next newsletter.

I should like to take this opportunity to wish you all the best for a Happy New Year and, for those who it applies, Merry Christmas.

Angela Hope, Chair of Governors

12 December 2016