

Governors' Report to Parents and Carers July 2017

The main focus of the governing body's recent work is summarised for you below.

Resources Committee

The resources committee has carefully scrutinised budget plans for the next three years as required by Wiltshire Local Education Authority. Funding for schools will be passed directly to schools from central government in the next couple of years and we are keen to ensure that we are in as strong a position as we can be. We made it a priority this year to ensure that the school's spending has been closely aligned to school improvement priorities. The committee has also ensured that policies related to premises are up to date and the building kept in good repair within the available resources.

Performance and Standards Committee

For the final meeting of the year the Performance and Standards Committee scrutinised reports from some of the subject leaders. We were especially pleased to hear of the good results for phonics in year 1 that mean Holbrook is now 5% above the national average. The results for phonics have shown an impressive improvement for the last three years and represent an excellent achievement; thanks to the hard work of staff and children. This achievement bodes well for the children as they move to year 2. Similarly, the year 6 SATs for mathematics have shown a significant improvement and we intend to keep the focus on arithmetic and spelling next year.

We also discussed and approved a new 'Education Support Commitment' that outlines how parent and carers can support their child's education. This document has been produced bearing in mind some of the feedback received from the parental questionnaire carried out in May. Governors fully support the commitment to improving education through parental involvement; especially for English and mathematics and hope you find this document helpful. The Teaching and Learning Policy has also been refreshed and updated. This is a useful document both for teaching staff and also for those involved in monitoring, for example, the School Improvement Advisor.

Full Governing Body

The head teacher prepares a written report, covering all aspects of the school, for each full governing body meeting. The governing body was interested to hear of a visit the head had made to another school and, as a result, there is a concerted effort to de-clutter classrooms. We were also made aware that the school day will be restructured next academic year in order to take account of research supporting the view that the main learning takes place during the morning.

At our last meeting on 18th July we will be scrutinising end of year reports on pupil progress, including KS1 and 2 SATs. We will also be considering the effectiveness of the governing body during the last year and looking at ways in which we might further improve our strategic oversight of the school.

Our work in committees is complemented by the work of individual governors linked to specific curriculum subjects or other important areas e.g. safeguarding and special educational needs. Several link governors have visited the school recently and this has involved meeting with subject/specialist leaders as well as monitoring arrangements in place to ensure the safety and security of pupils during the lunch time. Governors' reports from these visits have been discussed at relevant governing body meetings.

As this is the last governors' report to parents and carers this year, I should like to thank you for working in partnership with teachers to ensure that the school makes the best possible provision for all pupils at Holbrook.

Finally, on behalf of the governing body, I should like to congratulate the head teacher and his staff team for all their work that has led to such good outcomes for Holbrook pupils this year.

On behalf of the governing body I hope that all staff, parents/carers and pupils enjoy a good summer break.

Angela Hope, Chair of Governors

17 July 2017