

Governors' Report to Parents and Carers February 2017

I'm delighted to introduce the third report of the academic year 2016-17 on the work of the governing body. Since the last newsletter, written in December, we have held 2 meetings: Performance and Standards Committee and Resources Committee.

Performance and Standards Committee

We met at the end of term 2 and enjoyed hearing reports from subject leaders for Geography, Music, Science, English and Mathematics. It is always interesting to hear about what is happening in classrooms and it gives us an opportunity to monitor the effects of our decisions in other committees too. For example, we learned that Charanga, a new Primary Music Scheme for the new curriculum is working well. Many of you will have seen some of the results in the KS1 nativity performance. Governors also monitored progress with English and Mathematics and were encouraged to hear that the focus on times tables has been successful; most children are on target. Similarly, we heard about the focus on phonics in block 1 and plans to emphasise spelling in block 2. Our school leaders provide highly detailed reports and it is in this committee that we scrutinise, in detail, the progress each year is making and plans for the next term.

Another important part of the work of Performance and Standards is to review curriculum policies. At this meeting we reviewed Geography and Music. Parents and carers may be interested to know that we usually follow up on these meetings with a visit to the school to see how any policy changes are being implemented and the effect of such changes.

Resources Committee

This committee met at the end of January and are satisfied that the budget has been spent to support the school improvement priorities. At each meeting the School's Business Manager presents financial reports that enable the committee to monitor the school's spending against any proposed changes in the budget allocation. At this meeting we considered information that compares Holbrook School with other schools that are similar. This benchmarking exercise provides a useful comparison and demonstrated that the school has allocated its resources to achieve the best possible outcomes for Holbrook pupils. An important part of this meeting is to consider the financial horizon. We heard at this meeting that we will not be able to maintain our current spending next year. We are, therefore, considering how we might make more efficient use of our budget, for example by not renewing the lease for the outside screen.

The Resources Committee is responsible for strategic oversight of the school's premises, ensuring that pupils are provided with a safe and stimulating learning environment. We were pleased to receive updated reports on action plans at this meeting. Risk assessments are taking place at present and action plans will be presented at our next meeting.

I hope that you will enjoy an early spring break over ½ term.

Angela Hope, Chair of Governors

6 February 2017