

## **Governors' Report to Parents and Carers November 2014**

I'm pleased to introduce the first of this year's governors' reports to parents and carers.

Firstly, I should like to pay tribute to the contribution made by three governors who have now stepped down from the governing body due to other commitments. Jo Clarke (Manager of Rainbows Pre-School) Donna Thorne and Sue Ellison (parent governors) have all committed a significant amount of time to our work during their time as school governors and the governing body is grateful for their contributions.

It's pleasing to note that we have received two expressions of interest in joining the governing body and the two individuals concerned have been invited to attend meetings of the governing body to help them gain an understanding of the way we work. We do, though, still have vacancies for parent governors. Do contact Madeline White (clerk to governors) via the school office if you might be interested in becoming a parent governor.

The full governing body met in September, when we approved a strategic plan for the school, drawing on discussions we held with staff during the summer terms in order to agree what we all considered important for the future direction of the school. This is in addition to our statutory duties which include safeguarding, pupil attainment and progress and working in partnership with parents. The following strategic aspiration statements were agreed and will be used to guide our work.

- All children from the local community are welcomed
- Diversity is valued and celebrated, all pupils and adults are treated with respect and 'pupil's voice' is a strength
- We use our best endeavours to overcome barriers to learning
- We develop and encourage excellence and effectiveness in teaching and strive to ensure that pupils from our school are not disadvantaged
- We will work with other schools and community partners to deliver good quality provision across all curriculum areas
- Our approach to the curriculum is creative and innovative, encourages critical thinking and addresses the interests of our pupils; learning is stimulating and challenging and pupils become lifelong learners
- Citizenship, the global dimension and sustainability are integrated parts of our school ethos

At the meeting in September we also agreed the action plans for the first term and approved the end of year pupil performance targets. The school's leaders provided us with information to demonstrate that the targets were challenging but achievable. We approved the revised Behaviour for Learning Policy and will be considering a report on its effectiveness at our meeting this term.

Paul Berry explains the work of the Performance and Standards committee this term

*The aim of the Governors' Performance and Standards committee is to support and challenge the school in its focus on promoting pupil progress through quality teaching and a balanced curriculum. We do this by holding the school to account for standards throughout all curriculum subjects and all standards of teaching and learning.*

*This term we concentrated on the progress of the School Action Plan, the progress of the Year 6 pupils, and those children who have special educational needs. We also looked at the standards reached by the Reception children after their first year at Holbrook. In addition we received reports on how R.E., P.E., and Music are taught in school and approved the school policies for these subjects.*

*We approved a framework of key issues we shall be looking at over the coming year.*

John Edney provides this summary of the work of the Resources committee.

*The Governors' Resources committee supports and challenges the school's use of available resources to ensure they are targeted to the pupils' progress and attainment in education. This includes the school budget which is much tighter this year than in previous years. Consequently we have had to make some compromises in terms of what we would like to provide for the school whilst still providing core education and safeguarding for pupils.*

*An example of an area where we may have to take a difficult decision is the wooden play equipment. Much of it has its protective coating eroded but there is no available budget for refurbishment. The school and governors are going to look at ways of raising funds to be able to keep the equipment in good condition.*

I hope this report provides you with further insight into the work of the governing body. The minutes of all meetings, with the exception of confidential minutes, are available from the school office.

*Margaret Hunt*  
Chair of Governors