

## Governors' Report to Parents and Carers March 2016

I'm pleased to introduce this latest report on the work of the governing body this year. Last term I summarised the 2 meetings of the full governing body that took place as well as the Resources Committee. The Performance and Standards committee met this term and Paul Berry, chair of the committee, provides the following summary of its recent work.

The prime aim of the Performance and Standards committee is to support the school in its focus on promoting pupil progress. This takes the form of scrutinising various key aspects of the school's work. We try to make sure that we hold senior leaders to account for the impact of the decisions they make and the subsequent impact they have on the education of Holbrook pupils.

In particular this year we have looked at the end of Term 2 and 3 pupil progress information, and were able to have a clear view of the levels of progress being made by each year group. We are always looking to see that the curriculum is broad and balanced, but recognise the importance that English, Maths and Science make to a child's life. This term we scrutinised the evaluations of previous action plans for these subjects, and looked at the areas needed for further development. Leadership is crucial in developing good schools, so we looked with interest at the report on the progress of the 'Leadership Action plan'. Holbrook uses on-going assessment to check on pupils who may need extra support with their learning at certain times, and these 'interventions' are well monitored and evaluated. Governors were pleased to share in these evaluations.

In addition, at our last meeting we were able to ensure that the Headteacher's Performance Management objectives remained relevant and were on track to be successfully completed. Governors also had access to the school fund accounts and confirmed that they had been thoroughly audited. This committee also has a number of employment policies and procedures to oversee and these are currently being updated.

The recent Ofsted report noted that the *'governing body holds the leadership to account effectively and help to drive the school forwards'* and *'they are now more challenging and are as committed to improvement as the school.'*

Very welcome comments that confirm our committed and successful support for a school determined to do its best for all its pupils.

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We will be conducting our annual survey of parents and carers early next term and hope you will want to take this opportunity to let us have your views. A questionnaire will be sent home with a request for it to be returned by the end of April so that your responses can inform the school's improvement priorities. There have been many examples of changes introduced as a result of your suggestions in previous years and we look forward to receiving further ideas this year. As in previous years, a summary of the responses will be made available to all parents and carers and the head teacher will respond to each suggestion made through his weekly newsletters.

Finally, you may have heard in the news recently of the government's intention for all schools to become academies by 2022. The governing body will begin to consider the implications of this intention next term and will, of course, keep you updated on developments.

Meanwhile, I hope you and your families have a good Easter break.

*Margaret Hunt*, Chair of Governors

23 March 2016