



# Chair of Governors' Report

Summer 2016

## Introduction from Chair of Governors

Dear Parents,

After another busy term in the life of Heathwood Lower School, it gives me pleasure to introduce this report from the Governors to the parents.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow Governors for all their hard work and support, and Mrs Dove and her staff for their hard work and determination to ensure positive outcomes for all our pupils.

The Heathwood PTA continues to support the school financially and socially and we greatly appreciate their contribution. On an individual basis, parents and volunteers generosity with time and resources is invaluable in enhancing the school life of the children at Heathwood. Many thanks for your continuing support of Heathwood Lower School.

At the end of this term we will say goodbye to our current Year 4 as they embark on the next leg of their learning journey. It is a time of mixed emotions as we are happy to see them grow and move on but sad they are leaving us. We wish them the very best of luck at Middle School. We will also say goodbye to members of staff, Mrs Ann Coward, Mrs Sally Enright, Mrs Louise Healy and Mrs Sarah Hustwitt. We wish them all the very best for the future and thank them for their contribution to Heathwood.

I would like to congratulate the School Council on winning the National Speakers Award. The children went to the Houses of Parliament to collect their award. This is an amazing achievement for a school of our size.

Lastly can I wish you a happy and enjoyable summer holiday and look forward to welcoming you back in September.

Paula Bangs

Chair of Governors

## School Development Plan

Aspects of school activity and development are incorporated into the School Development Plan. The plan is a very detailed document prepared and updated by the Headteacher in discussion with appropriate staff. In addition to this, a number of targets, both short and long term, are set by the Governing Body and these too are incorporated into the Development Plan.

### The Effectiveness of Leadership and Management

- Staff continue to monitor coverage of the New Curriculum.
- Governors and Staff attended Prevent training on school Inset day.
- Governors continue to hold senior leaders stringently to account for all aspects of the school performance at Governing Body meetings and by having regular meetings with the Head Teacher and appropriate staff members.
- Governors this term have carried out learning walkways with the Head Teacher, Senior Staff and have met the School Improvement Partner to look at data.
- Governor skills audit has been completed identifying areas for improvement.

### Pupil Premium: Strategies for improvement:

- Whole school ethos of attainment for all.
- High quality teaching for all.
- Data driven and response to evidence.
- Staff have been deployed effectively, developing skills and roles.
- Individual targets reviewed regularly.
- Class provision mapping in place.
- Pupil progress meeting termly.

### Sports Premium: Spending allocated to:

- Future Games
- Yr4 Bikeability
- Leighton/Linslade Sports Partnership
- Young Leader Training
- Staff to accompany competitions.
- Replacement of PE resources and equipment.

## The Quality of Teaching, Learning and Assessment

Quality of teaching continues to be assessed with formal lesson observations, book scrutiny, data scrutiny and pupil interviews.

Book scrutiny is a fortnightly exercise for the Senior Leadership Team, concentrating on marking, feedback and presentation. This term teachers have been focussing on subject curriculum areas. Informal drop-ins and learning walkways are carried out on a regular basis by Senior Leadership team.

SATs and Phonics tests have taken place. Parent meetings have been held to discuss the tests.

## Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare

Overall attendance to date is 97.13%. The expectation for attendance is 95%.

No leave of absence is granted unless there are exceptional circumstances at the discretion of the Headteacher. This information continues to be shared with parents via the school newsletter.

Pupils attitude to all aspects of learning continues to be positive. The wall displays around the school show teachers encourage pupils to have pride and confidence in their work and achievement by demonstrating their work and learning is valued.

The school environment stimulates interests and discussion to challenge childrens' knowledge of the world.

## Outcomes for Pupils Targets

Attainment is very strong at our school. We set challenging targets for each child individually in Reading, Writing and Maths. Despite these challenging targets, good or outstanding progress from starting points is made across the school.

## Life at School

Heathwood pupils have continued to build on their knowledge of world economics and how it works. The children elect candidates from each class to represent them on the School Council and Fairtrade Council. The role of School Council is to give pupils a voice, allowing them to put forward ideas and raise issues from fellow pupils and to negotiate a satisfactory outcome.

The School Council regularly meet with St. Leonards Lower School to share and plan ideas.

Fairtrade have been busy spreading the word to the community about the disparity between the money paid to farmers in third world countries and the amount we pay as consumers to large organisations. This included a presentation to Pulford Lower School at one of their assemblies followed by a tour of Waitrose. Our pupils gave an award to Waitrose, as they are the only supermarket who sells only Fairtrade bananas. They also opened the annual Student Voice conference held at Vandyke Upper School this year.

Money raised from Heathwood's Fairtrade tuck shop is sent to Sierra Leone to support the education needs of two less fortunate children.

This very successful year culminated in a visit to the Houses of Parliament to see how it works for real and a National award from the Speaker of the House.

## Some of the places that the children have visited this term

### Topic: History

- Year 4 - New Barn Residential (all year 4 attended)
- Year 3 - Egyptians at the British Museum
- Year 2 - Roald Dahl, Aylesbury
- Year 1 - Rushmere
- Year R - Rooksley Farm
- School Council and Fairtrade Council - Houses of Parliament

### Enrichment Activities This Term

- Bird Watching/Nature
- Cooking
- Science
- Plant pot decorating
- Library skills
- Art
- Playground games

### Extra-Curricular Events This Term

- Swimming for all Class 3 all year
- Saturday morning football run by Future Games
- Private music lessons

### Clubs

- Choir
- Word games
- Playing in the garden
- Netball
- Gym
- Multi skills
- Gardening
- Construction

## Financial Performance for 2015/16

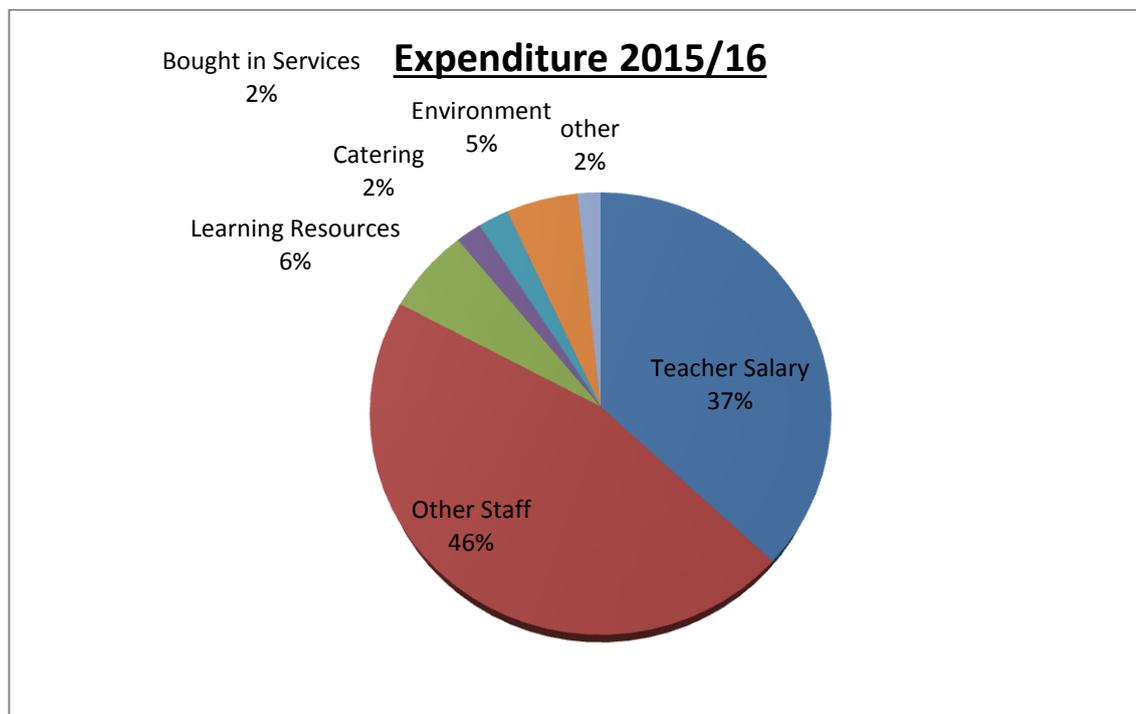
Overall income for 2015/16 was slightly higher than the budget with a small increase in LEA funding than expected. However, this was supplemented with £6,000 from the PTA which highlights how important the fund-raising efforts of the PTA are as a key feature of the school's finances.

Income from facilities and services was higher than budgeted during the year due to increased non-funded pupils in Pre-School. Catering income from funded and Universal School Meals was higher than anticipated reflecting the positive take-up of school dinners.

Expenditure was tightly monitored during the year and overall came in slightly under budget. However, there are some significant expenditure which will fall into the next financial year, namely approximately £13,000 towards the replacement of the roof (which was carried out over Easter) and necessary replacement of some of the fences.

The chart below shows expenditure over the past year, 2015/16

The majority of expenditure (83%) is spent on staffing costs, with 37% of overall expenditure spent on teacher salaries and 46% on other staff, primarily educational support staff costs, admin staff costs, premises staff and catering staff costs. Of all staff costs, 47% is spent on teaching staff and 30% is spent on educational support staff.



## Maintenance Health & Safety

This year Heathwood has completed a lot of necessary health and safety works, from having the roof fixed, to removal of asbestos in the boiler room.

We have seen remedial work carried out with new tiling in the toilets and Pre-School. The hard work hasn't stopped here. The greenhouse has seen broken glass replaced ready for the children from the gardening club to see their hard work flourish.

In the summer holidays the health and safety work continues with the fence around the front and side of the school being replaced, main gates repaired and emergency lighting to meet spec BS-5266, some vinyl flooring replaced and the hall floor resurfaced.

That's not all, we are exploring phase two of energy efficient lighting upgrades starting with the lighting in the main hall.

We continue to be committed to maintaining the school environment and keeping a regular check on Health and Safety.