

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 to Mrs Dove and her staff for all 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 Governors 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 continued 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. We wish them the very best of luck at Middle School. We will also say goodbye to some members of staff, Mrs Hiles, Ms Lumsden and Mrs Minney. We wish them the very best for the future and thank them for their contributions to Heathwood.

Finally, on behalf of the Governing Body, I wish you a happy and enjoyable summer holiday and look forward to welcoming you back in September.

Paula Bangs
Chair of Governors

Teaching & Learning Committee Update Summer Term 2018

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 Head Teacher 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 following targets were embedded in SDP Performance Management targets for all staff as appropriate.

- To continue to improve outcomes in EYFS
- To ensure GDPR is compliant.
- To continue to improve teaching, so that a greater proportion of teaching is outstanding.
- To maximise learning opportunities, providing challenge for More Able pupils in a curriculum which inspires to learn.
- To develop a Growth Mind-set by asking open ended questions and thinking time.
- Improve fluency and reasoning to improve outcomes in maths for all year groups.
- Continue improvement in Pre-School so children are on track when they enter Year R.
- Continue a programme of cohesive transition to Early Years Foundation Stage.

Inset

Sept - Staff Handbook, Policies, Safeguarding & Prevent Training.

Sept - Improving fluency and reasoning in maths.

Jan - Ofsted reflection, classroom preparation.

April - Epi Pen, asthma, More Able NACE award.

July - Self Evaluation/School Development Plan, Curriculum

The Effectiveness of Leadership and Management

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; Governors have met the School Improvement Partner to look at data.

Pupil Premium: Strategies for improvement:

Whole school ethos of attainment for all.

High quality teaching for all.

Data driven and response to evidence.

Staffs have been deployed effectively, developing skills and roles. Individual targets reviewed regularly.

End of year data shows Pupil Premium children have made good progress across the school.

Sports Premium: Spending allocated to:

- Future Games two afternoons weekly (include lunchtimes and after school clubs)
- Yr4 Bikeability
- Leighton-Linslade Sports Partnership (staff training and cpd)
- Leighton-Linslade Sports Competitions - Football, Golf, Tennis, Hockey, Cricket, Orienteering.
- Young Leader Training (Class 4)
- Staff to accompany competitions.
- Replacement of PE resources and equipment.
- Sport/Health Week
- Resurfacing the Trim Trail

The Quality of Teaching, Learning and Assessment

Book scrutiny, drop-ins and data scrutiny, support the evidence of at least good, with elements of outstanding, teaching.

Learning walkways have been carried out on a regular basis by Governors. Governors have seen exciting lessons and engaged children.

Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare

Overall attendance this year is 95.02%. The expectation for attendance is 95%.

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

Governors have noted that pupil's attitude to all aspects of learning continues to be positive. The wall displays around the school encourage pupils to have pride and confidence in their work and what they have achieved. Children know their targets and challenges. The school environment continues to stimulate the children's interest to learn.

Governors have observed that behaviour around the school continues to be excellent. Children are polite and well mannered.

Parental Feedback

Governors asked parents at parents' evening to give feedback on how they felt the school is performing. We had 78 responses to the Ofsted parent view platform. 97% of parents would recommend this school to another parent.

Enriching the Curriculum

Trips/Visits this term

New Barn Residential - History

Hazzard Alley - Health & Safety

Caldecotte Residential - PSHE & Self Confidence

Rushmere - Science/Geography

Lambs and Eggs to hatch - Understanding the World

School Council - Student Voice

Other Enrichment events:

Fairtrade Council, Storytime, Chess, Athletics.

Percussion, Make a nature garden, Cooking, Sewing, Art, Change for Life.

Paula Bangs

Chair of Teaching and Learning Committee

Management & Resources Committee Update Summer Term 2018

After the achievements of the previous school year, including the installation of the new school ramps to classrooms, fire escapes and importantly the playing field, this year has seen us working on new projects. These new projects include installing LED and emergency lighting; a fully centralised fire alarm system which directly alerts the fire station if triggered; a full overhaul of all the electrical wiring, and security cameras installed in key points of the school.

The above have taken major effort from all involved and these works were key in making sure we were up to date with Health and Safety requirements, along with offering the best working environment we can for everyone who attends the school.

We have also been working hard on the structure to real time Health and Safety concerns raised by staff, children and parents. We have implemented a Health and Safety action book where all Health and Safety concerns are now addressed within 24 hours of being raised. A member of the Management Team reviews the works completed and, if happy, then signs the book to close off the work.

Before every Governors' meeting we audit the Health and Safety book, as well as spot checking the fire alarm, emergency lighting and water temperature test records, along with many others. This allows any concerns highlighted to be addressed straight away in the meeting, and any actions planned.

We are very proud of our achievements and look forward to exciting new projects in the pipeline.

Jonathan Young

Vice-Chair of Management and Resources Committee

Vice Chair's Summer 18 Report

School Council - Fair Trade - Sports Council

The usual elections took place early in September to find the representatives for Fair Trade, School Council, Sports Council and House Captains. This year the elections took on a different slant, the manifesto's were read out to classes by their form teachers, which meant that children voted for what they considered to be the best reasons for election. Once all the votes were in, the children were informed who the manifestos had belonged to. This did indeed seem a much fairer way of securing the class representatives.

Heathwood 50th Anniversary

In October we had a celebrated the 50th Anniversary of Heathwood, by holding a tea party and then each child was given a balloon to release in the hall with their name tag on. There was a prize of for the child whose balloon lasted the longest.

UNICEF - Rights Respecting School Award

In November, Heathwood embarked on the journey to attain the Rights Respecting School Award and Mrs Wright launched this by showing a video in assembly. Our Heathwood children learned that it is important for children all over the world to have the same rights. A steering group was put together which included class representatives, a teacher, a teaching assistant and a school governor. The first task was to write a new mission statement - "Learning together and having fun". Work has continued to go on in the background throughout the year and as a fund raising exercise for Unicef during Healthy Heathwood Week in June, classes designed and created their own football obstacle courses for "Soccer Aid" and came to school wearing their favourite football kit or sportswear.

NSPCC - Let's keep kids safe online

There was a workshop run by the NSPCC for Parents held on 22nd May - "Let's keep kids safe online". This was very informative and highlighted just how dangerous some websites can be for our children. With technology moving so fast and our children knowing in some cases much more than we do as parents, it is vitally important that as adults we are aware what is age appropriate for our children. Also, that there is adequate supervision when children are using computers. Two booklets were handed out "A parents' guide to being Share Aware" and "Your child's online world". If you were unable to attend the workshop, for further information please call 0808 800 5002 or visit nspcc.org.uk/onlinesafety . As parents also be aware of what you are looking at if you have children looking over your shoulder, remember games are age related for a reason and children take in much more than we give them credit for! Take time to discuss with your children what games they are using, or what research they are doing and most of all keep them safe.

Rose Gunter

Vice Chair of Governors