

Governor News Review of the Year – Academic Year 2023/24

What a great year it is has been for our school.

We started the year with the opening of the new Extension and in October the amendments to the existing building were complete. It was lovely to welcome and speak to so many of you at our opening evening along with the PTA autumn fair. A significant amount of work had taken place to bring the building work to fruition and it is wonderful to see how this is benefiting the children of our school who deserve the space they are afforded to now learn in.

Curriculum Visits

Over the course of the year we have visited the school each term to check on the schools progress against the objectives we set out at the start of the year.

EYFS – September 24

The EYFS continued to be an exciting place to learn. New ideas, and extended continuous provision in both learning areas, engaged the youngest children and challenged their language and communication (an area identified as a focus from the baseline assessments).

Displays were a focus across the school and staff work hard to balance their own 'working walls' with those showing children's achievements and learning over time, (e.g., The Learning Journey wall). Staff were developing their environments based on ongoing building work and EYFS staffing were flexible based on children's needs in each class.

Staff work as a team to ensure that continuity of children's focussed tasks and continuous provision have continuity and coherence across a week. Children were clearly enjoying their learning experiences and were confident to share their learning.

Writing Review – March 24

Governors observed teaching in a range of classes through school, looked at the work children had produced and talked with staff and children. It was clear that all staff were implementing new methods targeted to the SIP that gave children greater opportunity to orally practice their ideas before writing, such as talk for writing in Y1 and lessons throughout school were well structured enabling children to focus on implementing their skills. All classes were inclusive with some using Makaton and dyslexia friendly practice for just two examples. It was amazing to see the impact both on writing standards in the presentation books but also in the progress shown in the presentation books, and the enthusiasm and confidence of both teachers and pupils alike. The school will continue to develop writing in the next academic year.

Maths Review – May 24

The implementation of a new lesson structure this year has clearly had a positive impact on teaching and learning. The lesson starters, in all classes, which focus on the recap of prior learning or misconceptions are helping children to secure and embed their knowledge, creating more confident mathematicians. Low stakes quizzes along with end of unit/term tests and careful analysis of these are helping teachers plan next steps in learning. Staff said they were well supported by the Math's lead. Children were clearly enjoying their learning and were eager to share their work.

The school is looking to develop new calculation policies to share with parent in the next academic year and develop the children's Times table skills to be in line with or above National.

Art Review – June 24

Children clearly love their art lessons and there is a clear and progressive structure in place to ensure that children have opportunity to learn about and from a range of artists from different times and cultures, exploring different techniques and developing their skills. Children use sketch books to develop their skills over a series of lessons leading to high quality final pieces of work which the children were proud to show. We are sure many of you will have the work on the walls at home!

School Council – pupil Voice

Mrs Dickens visited the school council in action and was delighted to see the work undertaken. It was clear that the school council had projects on the go and children were participating with great drive and organisation. The children were observed working with a representative and program from Energy Sparks which is helping the school to reduce its energy consumption by pinpointing where we could improve the way we work. It was apparent that the solar panels fixed to the new build are already saving money, despite it being the darker winter months. Some days, we have actually exported electricity back to the National Grid. We also have little extra electricity usage since the new build, which is being driven by the panels. The school council was inspired to take on additional likely responsibilities to implement change within the Energy Sparks project.

The children were impressive in their professional conduct, questions and enthusiasm, keen to make a difference to their school.

OFSTED

We were overwhelmed by the parental response to the OFSTED survey which demonstrated the parents commitment, support and value for the work the school does. For us as governors this reaffirmed the importance of the work the school does. 100% of parents who responded stated they would recommend our school to others. The report identified so many strengths of the school. There was one recommendation to continue to further develop and improve the phonics learning in school and we can tell you, as you would expect, the school have already put plans and initiatives in place to address this. That said we are delighted with the children's achievements in phonics, with 96% of Y1 children passing their phonics screening test and 100% in Y2.

Party In the Park

We cannot finish our update without commenting on the how well the year ended with a wonderful party in the park, where we were all able to come together and be entertained by children from Nursery to Year 6 with an evening of singing and dancing. We would like to congratulate the children on their amazing, professional performances at the end of a busy and successful year.

Moving On

Good Luck to all of our Y6 Children as they transition to their next destinations. We know you will continue to SHINE!

We thank you for your continued support and look forward to building on our success in the new school year.

