

Long Lane Primary

Dear Parents and Carers,

This year has been a challenging year at Long Lane Primary School with the budget cuts from the Government for the last two years. As Governors we have had numerous meetings with the leadership team and tried to find ways to minimize the effect within our school.

We have had our visit from Ofsted, which highlighted how effective and hard working the staff and governors are in maintaining our high standards in school even though we have had our challenges.

Following a successful interview process, we were delighted to appoint a new deputy headteacher, Kerry Penn, who has already made a huge impact in her new role.

On behalf of the Governors, past and present, I would like to thank Mrs Handley (Year 3) and Mike Boys (Governor) for all their many years of work and dedication to the pupils and the school.

Happy to announce three new governors joining our board in September. Jane Hall, Katie Holder and Aditi Vyas. Our board will be complete and eager to start the new year expanding the schools vision and governor/school development plan.

On a very positive note, I would like to congratulate all the staff for their hard work this year. Our results for Year 2 and Year 6 have been good. The results are testament to everyone's hard work and dedication.

The governors would like to wish the pupils in Year 6 all the best going forward in their new schools in September and I know they will do us proud. It has been a pure pleasure to have met you all and seen your growth here at Long Lane.

Enjoy your holidays and we are looking forward to welcoming you all back in September.

Shirley Wilkinson

Upcoming Events

2nd October 2019

Full Governing Board Meeting

11th December 2019

Full Governing Board Meeting

5th February 2020

Full Governing Board Meeting

22nd April 2020

Full Governing Board Meeting

10th June 2020

Full Governing Board Meeting

8th July 2020

Full Governing Board Meeting

Class Link Governors

Foundation

- Jane Hall

Year 1

- James Mortimore

Year 2

- Katie Holder

Year 3

- Andrew Neil

Year 4

- Aditi Vyas

Year 5

- Simon Bamford

Year 6

- Jan Cresswell

Governor Monthly Dispatch

Having recently been appointed as the Sports Premium Governor, I would like to express how excited I am to be supporting Mr Hunt to positively impact the sports provision at Long Lane. Since being at Long Lane I have been so impressed with the number of sporting events the children enter along with the vast number of sports clubs on offer. As a Director of Sport at St Andrew's, we are trying to branch out to local Primary Schools and I have been delighted to hear what a success it has been for Long Lane using our new swimming pool. I hope to create some more links with Long Lane in the future using this Sports Premium fund and supporting Mr Hunt's vision for how it can positively impact sport at Long Lane. I am extremely proud to be able to state how healthy the sports provision is at Long Lane and I am looking forward to Sports Day at the end of this month!

James Mortimer – Sports Premium Governor

From bright bobble hats to emoji beanies, colourful headgear was very much the order of the day when I visited the school on a snowy January morning. Fresh from a bracing breaktime out of doors, the children were keen to kick off their wellies and get down to work, whilst efficient cloakroom captains made sure coats and boots were safely stowed and ready for lunchtime. Pupils clearly enjoy taking on responsibility and it was good to see our emerging leaders in action.

Curiosity and imagination, qualities that will take our pupils far at school and beyond, were much in evidence too, from the bold and beautiful mythical creatures on display in the library to the fascinating conversation about language and dialect in a literacy lesson. Mr Thorne and his staff are rightly committed to ensuring that the children develop their skills in spoken English, expressing their thoughts with clarity and confidence, so it was great to see enthusiasm for sharing their ideas in all the classes I visited.

On a chilly day, a warming lunch of roast chicken with macaroni cheese and broccoli was just the ticket and the children were tucking in with relish as I set off. Walking back to the gate, I spotted the green shoots of daffodils pushing hopefully through the snow, signs of spring and of all the exciting times to come in the rest of this school year. I look forward to being part of it.

Jane Cresswell – SEN Governor

As staff governor, I really am able to see the importance of everyone working together in order for children to be able to succeed and make progress, both academically, and socially and emotionally. Whilst it has been another busy and challenging start to the academic year, all staff and governors have demonstrated the flexibility and adaptability that is key to the successful running of a school in the current climate.

There have already been numerous trips and activities in school (PGL, Wokingham Waterside Centre, Bikeability) which have seen Year 5 and 6 further develop their ability to show resilience, challenge themselves, work together and try new things; all skills that our school's vision and 'secrets of success' set out as important for not only school, but life. All the children represented the school superbly and the impact that these opportunities provide children are priceless. This is especially true with an increasing focus of schools towards mental health and self-esteem.

I am in no doubt that this year will continue to provide plenty of challenges for both staff and governors. It is evident that if everyone continues to work together to provide a wide range of curriculum opportunities then all children will continue to flourish at our school.

It was a pleasure to see Lichtenstein in action for the first time this year. Whilst the pupils were still full of energy following their PGL residential at the start of the week, poor Mrs Smyth was fighting off the effects of a heavy cold which she had brought back with her from Liddington. Thanks must go to all the staff who made the visit possible, particularly when it impacted on their own family arrangements.

Tom Hunt – Staff Governor

The judgement of Long Lane leaders and governors has been vindicated: Ofsted agrees that we continue to be a good school and that staff and governors understand the priorities for further development. Inspectors noted that, 'Pupils enjoy coming to Long Lane Primary, and they are well prepared for moving to secondary school at the end of Year 6. Your school motto of Strive to Succeed is palpable across the school.' And in acknowledgement of the broader strengths of Long Lane, a parent was quoted who said, 'Staff have not only taught my children well but have looked after them amazingly!' That sums up nicely what the school is all about and why we are all proud to be associated with it.

Hardly had the celebrations begun than, with great fanfare, Ofsted revealed that it intends to change things again and bring out a new framework this summer for future school inspections. Great changes are promised – out with in-school data and in with a quality of education judgement is the story that Ofsted want school leaders to share with them. No doubt Ofsted's proposals will be welcomed by many teachers and parents who see the harm that has been done to children by a narrow focus on tests and an obsession with the data collected during their journey through school.

Albert Einstein said, 'Everyone is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid.' If we are good learners and naturally very academic, then we are very lucky indeed. But, not everyone is, yet we all have to take exams. Year 6: as you approach the period of your SATs, you would do well to remember Einstein's fish. Swim your way through the next few weeks to the very best of your ability and, before you know it, a summer of fun will be all yours!

Mike Boys – Co-Opted Governor

I was excited to begin my role as a governor back in October 2017, and, as ever, the year has flown by. Now that we are approaching the end of term, this seems an excellent point to reflect on what the school has achieved in the last year, and as a governor, I am particularly interested in how well the school has fulfilled its vision to its pupils; that each child will leave with a love of learning.

Of course, learning is not just about facts, figures, and exams, it is about learning practical, social, and emotional life skills through experiences inside, and outside the classroom. The school website's 'news' section contains a record of just some of the activities undertaken over the past year, and I am pleased to see that there is a wide range of learning on display - there is learning about teamwork in winning the Berkshire Primary School's Cup, learning about independence at PGL, learning about practical science in the paper aeroplane competition and science festival, learning about the environment at Woolley Firs Environmental Education Centre, and learning about equality with International Women's day – to name but a few.

I am always impressed when I visit the school at the overriding sense of support that pupils give each other, and the way that the school recognises the efforts of pupils in all aspects of their education, and sports day was a fine example of how well the pupils work together, and support each other.

Alongside my general governor duties, I took over as safeguarding governor a little before Easter. I have been to the school to ensure that the staff and governors are up to date with their safeguarding responsibilities and are always alert to their responsibilities. I am pleased to see that the school is maintaining its 'outstanding' work in safeguarding children and I will aim to ensure that this continues; ensuring pupils are safe must always be our top priority.

I hope that pupils keep enjoying their learning right up to the end of term, and continue to learn new skills at the same time as enjoying their summer holidays.

Edward Barham – Safeguarding Governor