

Meeting of Leechpool's Governing Body on 15th March 2022 chaired by John Bentley

brief summary of key matters discussed

Head Teacher's report

The Head Teacher's report was made available to governors prior to the meeting. The additional level of precision and clarity delivered by the new style and format of this report was welcomed by all the governors.

Outcomes

Children are making good progress as was evidenced by the Spring 1 (21-22) Attainment and Progress Summary.

Curriculum

Curriculum development work continues not least to ensure clear progression and continuity across all age groups and subject leaders have been given time out of the classroom to develop subject policy and practice. Deep dives continue and Dave Cole of Shine Education reported very positively following his work with the subject leads for Music and Pshe,

Behaviour

Behaviour continues to be good both in school and also whilst pupils have been on trips and at external sporting events. Staff continue to focus on the mental health and well-being of pupils. Individuals who struggle to follow the expectations of the school or age-related expectations are supported.

Leadership and Management

Covid has presented significant challenges to the whole school for two years. The leadership team ensured all statutory requirements have been met and staff non-contact time has been maintained at all times despite high levels of absence. Staff with health issues have been supported and referred to occupational health as necessary. The governors recognised the consistently exceptional level of pressure that this has imposed upon all staff and, particularly, the leadership team and expressed their admiration and thanks.

As noted at last month's meeting, Miss Hollis (Key Stage 1 Phase Leader) has completed her moderator course for writing; her experience will be valuable to the school as a whole and, as a moderator, she will benefit from seeing the standards achieved by other schools in the locality.

Admissions

414 pupils on roll with the likelihood of 2 more pupils joining soon. The school is oversubscribed for September 2022.

Attendance

Absence rates have been high, a direct reflection of the high levels of covid in the Horsham community.

Safeguarding

All staff have had their safeguarding training updated and safeguarding update meetings are attended by the leadership team every month.

Special Educational Needs and Looked after Children

Current details were provided and, in this regard, GM questioned the data provided in the Head's report on **School Performance and Standards**. The data is impacted by the high proportion of SEND and disadvantaged children in Year 5. The Head advised that interventions to support disadvantaged pupils were always a focus at pupil progress meetings and these are reviewed half-termly to ensure progress.

Sport

The governors concluded that the PE and Sports grant has been effectively employed both to buy necessary equipment and to enable children throughout the school to attend external competitions and matches including netball, football, dodgeball, indoor athletics, swimming and rugby. The governors noted that, through direct observation at a number of these events, it was clear that Leechpool is truly a 'sport for all' school.

Premises

The construction of the new school library is nearing completion. Staff room renovations are underway and incremental improvements to all areas of the school continue.

Health and Safety

The school has been selected for a Health and Safety Review in July 2022.

Performance Management

Thorough reviews will be carried out in the week beginning 21st March with governors supporting the Performance Management of Assistant Headteachers.

Parental Engagement

Parent consultations were held on the 8th and 10th March. Engagement with the school's parents remains a high priority and is achieved through a range of activities including newsletters and the availability of the leadership team at the school gates at the beginning and end of each school day.

School Improvement Priorities

A comprehensive account of the school's wide ranging and ambitious plans for continuous improvement was included in the Head's report and commended by the governors. KJ asked about Teach like a Champion. This concept looks at different teaching strategies. Staff have picked out 9 strategies which they felt would be quite useful when teaching, including:

Every Minute Counts; No Apologies; Work the Clock; No Opt Out; Cold Calling. These strategies will be revisited every half term.

Caterpillar Club

An update report was made available to all governors prior to the meeting.

Finance

JA and KJ met with HW and ND in the week before this meeting and interrogated the budget in detail. They concluded that the budget continues to be well managed and is in a good position with some allowance for movement. The end of year figures will be examined by the full governing body at their May meeting. SFVS, Best Value Statement, Control Assurance Statement and Scheme of Delegation were approved by the governors. JA and KA are working with Amy Jordan, as noted in the February minutes, to align the nursery's accounts with the school's accounts; these two accounts will not be merged as both organisations remain separate entities.

Governors' Review Workshop

Governors split into four groups for 30 minutes or so to discuss and assess their preparedness to answer questions likely to be asked of them by inspectors at a future inspection. This initiative will be followed up at the May meeting.

Pupil Achievement and Progress

The Insight data system collates children's progress in each subject and can provide overall data as well as data for selected sub groups. The governors noted that the figures for reading and writing demonstrate a slight dip in achievement. The governors accepted that covid has impacted the school heavily over the last two years and that the school continues to be pro-active and creative in seeking to ensure that children to achieve to the best of their ability. The governors were encouraged to observe that the maths figures were improving.

First Aid Figures

These showed an increase in accidents in Key Stage 2; the situation is being monitored closely and may be linked to new play equipment. As a further precaution staff are now ensuring that children do not use hard footballs in the playground.

Website

A full website audit was completed in December with only a few minor queries raised. The curriculum areas are being more densely populated and a further full audit will take place in May.

AOB

The curved roof of the music box needs repair and there has been some storm damage to roof tiles. These issues are being addressed.

The results of the recent parent survey were very positive and will be shared with governors once they have been collated.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Governing Body will take place on 10th May 2022 at 6.30 pm

Details of the members of the school's Governing Body can be found at <https://www.leechpoolprimaryschool.co.uk/governor-profiles>

Parents with children currently at the school are welcome to contact governors with questions or general feedback. Please note that parents should always contact the school directly with any concerns.

Initials of governors and any other individuals 'in attendance' at this meeting are as follows:

ND – Nicola Davenport – Head Teacher

JA – John Adams – Joint Lead for Finance (attending this meeting via a virtual link)

KB – Katie Beange – Parent Governor and joint lead for SEN

JB – John Bentley – Deputy Chair of Governors and Joint Lead for Safeguarding

DB – Derick Bostridge – Lead for Public Relations attending this meeting via a virtual link)

SC – Sarah Cullern – Enrichment Leader and subject leader for Modern Foreign Languages

JD – Jayne Dowell – Clerk to the Governors

MDM – Maria DiMartino – Parent Governor (Governor, Leechpool Caterpillar Nursery and After-School Club)

KJ – Katie Jesse – Joint Lead for Finance

GM – Gary Marlow – Lead for PE and Sports Premium

EP – Emma Paine - Assistant Head Teacher and Lead for Inclusion and Achievement, SENCO with responsibility for all aspects of SEND and Inclusion **(in attendance)**

KS – Kate Summerhayes - Caterpillar Nursery and Afterschool Manager **(in attendance)**

Apologies for absence:

OE – Olivia Ellery – Lead for Human Resources

SP – Sara Page – Lead for Parent Liaison

VW – Vinod Wagjiani – Chair of Governors, Joint Lead for Child Protection/Safeguarding, Lead for Internet Safety