

**Newsletter from the Chair of Governors
Autumn Term 2016**

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope your children settled well and have enjoyed their autumn term, and that you have also had the opportunity to take part in school life and attend events for parents/carers.

Communication with Parents/ Carers

It is very important for us that you are able to easily communicate with the school regarding your children. If you want to discuss something or have a concern, do make an appointment with the relevant Infant and Junior schools teaching staff who will listen and address any issue you may have. The Newsletters, ParentMail and the websites are all designed to keep you informed in a timely manner and ensure that you are involved in schools life. If you have any difficulties accessing these, do not hesitate to contact the schools' office staff.

Attendance and Punctuality

Good attendance and punctuality is an essential part of developing good behaviour for learning and for your child's future. It also supports your child in developing self-confidence and a sense of belonging to the school community. Regular attendance also impacts directly on children's progress.

We take poor attendance and lateness very seriously in our schools and make every effort to support families to improve their children's attendance and punctuality. The schools will always work positively with you to address any issue you may have.

Junior School Pupils KS2 Progress and Attainment Summer 2016

Last year's Year 6 pupils did very well in their KS2 SATs in all areas even though the expected National Standards were raised and the school had to develop a new assessment system without levels.

Pupil Attainment was well above national average in Reading, Writing and Maths combined: GSJS - 70% (National – 53%);

In Reading GSJS scored an Average Scaled Score of 107.2 (National – 103);

In Maths, GSJS scored an Average Scaled Score of 107.8 (National - 103);

In SPAG (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar), GSJS scored 109.5 (National – 105);

In Writing, GSJS percentage of children meeting expected standard or above was 75.9% (National – 71.74%);

Pupil Progress was also very good. The school is in the top 25% for Reading and Maths.

Writing progress is in line with National Average.

The school needs to improve the progress of boys and to extend further the writing of all children at greater depth (children working above Expected Standard).

Congratulations to the Junior school staff team for their excellent results this year and congratulations to the Year 6 children for doing so well.

Junior School Priorities for this Academic Year (2016 – 2017)

The aim of the school and the Governing Body is to secure and always strengthen high quality teaching so that all pupils make good or better progress from Year 3 onwards.

The Head Teacher, the Senior Management Team and the Governing Body have discussed and approved this year's School Development Plan which includes as priorities:

- Actions for effective use of Teaching Assistants and Learning Support Assistants in class;
- Staff training and initiatives to develop further the quality of teaching and improve writing at Greater Depth in particular;
- Teachers training regarding teaching children with SEND;
- Developing further pupils' behaviour for learning and pupils' engagement in their learning.

Finally, Safeguarding, developing a broad curriculum and ensuring inclusion of all children always remain priorities for the Head Teacher, the Senior Leadership Team, all teaching staff and the Governing Body.

Infant school KS1 Progress and Attainment Summer 2016

Last academic year saw many challenges for the Infant school. The National SATs demands were increased dramatically and it has been more difficult for Year 2 children to meet the expected standards. The school also had to develop and introduce a new assessment system.

As you probably know, children arrive to our Infant school from over 30 different nurseries and the children's population is extremely diverse. It therefore takes time and a lot of input from the school to ensure that pupils acquire the basic skills necessary for learning and making good progress.

EYFS (Reception year) GSIS did very well and results were above National Average.

Year1 Phonics test, children did very well and the results were above National Average, GSIS 86.7% (National 80.6%).

KS1 Attainment (end of Year 2)

Attainment in Reading at Expected Standard was in line with National Average, GSIS 74.2% (National 74%).

Attainment in Writing at Expected Standard was disappointing as it was below National Average, GSIS 47.2% (National 65.5%). Due to changes in the assessment system, children were not able to meet the standard if they did not meet ALL the criteria. We identified that some children did not meet the standard because of their handwriting and/or the application of spelling in their writing.

The school has now increased the frequency of maths lessons so that children are getting daily maths lesson, enabling greater coverage of the new curriculum.

The attainment in Reading, Writing and Maths combined at Expected Standard was below National Average, GSIS 41.6% (National 60.3%).

At Greater Depth (children working above the Expected Standard), GSIS children achieved much better and results are above National Average.

In Reading, 28.1% of Pupils were working at Greater Depth which is above National Average (23.6%);

In Writing, 14.6% of pupils were working at Greater Depth which is above National Average (13.3%);

In Maths, 19.1% of pupils were working at Greater Depth which is above National Average (17.8%).

In 2015 – 2016 there was a gap in attainment between disadvantaged and their peers, and children for whom English is not their first language and other children.

The Head Teacher and Management team have worked hard to develop a plan for improvement which is now in place and fully addresses the school's difficulties in reaching good attainment. The Governing Body is reassured that the improvement plan will enable the school to meet good attainment standards at the end of 2016 – 2017. The Governing Body is working closely with the Head Teacher and school management to monitor progress on the school's improvement.

Infant School Priorities for 2016 – 2017

- Consolidate the newly restructured Management Team so that all Leaders ensure consistently good to outstanding quality of teaching and that all children make good progress.
Each Middle Leader is responsible for a specific area of the curriculum: Writing and Literacy; Maths; EYFS.
- A workable assessment system has been developed and teachers' assessment for learning will now be more attuned to respond faster to children's difficulties.
- The role of Teaching Assistants in class is being strengthened and all Teaching Assistants are being given specific training to ensure that their role is effective.
- Behaviour for Learning is now at the core of all teaching and closely monitored.
- Attendance is also closely monitored and effective support provided.
- The Senior Management Team now includes a Leader responsible for Children's progress at KS1 and the Inclusion Managers respectively for SEND/Disadvantaged children and EAL.

The Infant school recruited five new members of staff to our teaching team, bringing new skills and experience to our already strong team.

Congratulations to the Head Teacher, Deputy Head Teacher and all the teaching staff for the hard work they have put in last academic year and this term to ensure that future results will reflect the high quality of the school over all.

Governing Body Work and Impact

At the beginning of this term the Governing Body agreed a governance improvement plan to ensure that governors would be better able to scrutinise the quality of the schools' work and the implementation of the Schools' Improvement Plans (SIP). In brief, this includes:

- A meeting at the beginning of the academic year of all Committee Chairs with the Head Teachers to discuss priorities which took place early September;
- A more focused brief for committees to better follow up on Head Teachers reports and actions;
- A Named Governor schedule for the year by which all governors are linked to an area of the Schools' Improvement Plan and a link member of staff.

This will enable the Governing Body to see evidence of the Improvement Plans being implemented at different levels, including in the classroom and through examples of pupils' work.

This plan is now being implemented and there is already much closer work between the schools and the Governing Body.

Premises Committee governors have also worked hard with the schools and taken action to resolve difficult building maintenance issues successfully. Individual governors have participated in the broader curriculum, being involved with pupils in maintaining the gardens and vegetable garden, for example. Others have worked closely with the schools' management to support the implementation of priorities included in the Schools' Improvement Plans.

Priorities for the Spring Term

To have a Pupils' Progress Review in the Spring term;

To consolidate the role of the Named Governors and monitor impact;

To run a "Parents, Pupils and Staff Survey" as we do every two years;

To develop stronger links with the parent/carer and wider community;

Ensure financial sustainability of both schools.

Other News

Mary Ogle, who had been a governor for many years has retired from the Governing Body this term. Mary had been the Curriculum Committee Chair for many years until last Autumn. Her thorough understanding of governance work and responsibilities has led the Curriculum Committee from strength to strength. She has also been an invaluable member of the Staffing Committee and lately of the SEND and Pupils Wellbeing Committee. Her commitment, attention to details and gentleness will be sorely missed in our meetings as well as her support to the Head Teachers and staff.

On behalf of the Governing Body and the school community, I want to thank Mary for her very special and long standing contribution to the schools and send her our very best wishes!

The Junior and Infant schools have run many events for children and parents this term.

The Year 6 residential trip to the Isle of Wight was a great success. Staff and children were congratulated in a letter from the Kingswood Centre, for their work and the children's outstanding behaviour. Congratulations to all the staff for their hard work in preparation and during that week and to the children for making such a success of it.

Curriculum events in both schools which many parents and governors attended were really informative and engaging. Children and parents, I'm sure, loved the Infant school's Harvest Festival. Thank you to all volunteers who helped on the day. Both schools organised several events related to the broad curriculum including Black History Week in the Junior school with the visit from Floella Benjamin and the theatre workshop on the "Great Fire of London" in the Infant school. Several themed assemblies in both schools celebrated a diversity of religions and religious festivals.

Thank you to both schools' Teaching and Support staff for these successful and enjoyable events! Thank you very much too, to parents and both PTAs for all the hard work with fund raising events.

Finally, we wish all our parents, carers, children and staff a wonderful holiday.

Seasons' Greetings and Very Best Wishes for the New Year!

Chair of Governors
Françoise Wagneur

Vice-Chair
Jane Harris