



St Philip Westbrook
C of E Aided Primary School

St Philip's Centre
District Centre
Westbrook
Warrington
WA5 8UE

Mrs J Wightman
Headteacher

Tel: 01925 445391

12th July 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Having last written to you all to confirm the brilliant outcome to the SIAMs Inspection in February I now take this opportunity as Chair of Governors to update you all again.

We have had several families join our school during the academic year so I welcome them on behalf of the governing body, who are here to work with the school to ensure it delivers good quality education. Together with the head teacher, who is responsible for all day-to-day management, we set the school aims and policies. The children and their outcomes are at the centre of all that we do as a governing body, alongside ensuring that resources are spent appropriately and positively affect pupil outcomes. We do this through regular full governing body meetings, committees, learning walks, ongoing training, objective setting and data analysis throughout the year.

A full summary of our activities for the previous year, which will further explain our role, can be found in our Impact Statement July 2018, with a new statement being released over the coming weeks:

<http://stphilipwestbrook.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Governor-Impact-Statement-2017-2018.pdf>

I take this opportunity to update you briefly on some recent findings and actions.

Attainment and Teaching

Having received the initial SATs results, and while they are being verified with the LA, I summarise the attainment as follows:

- Reception Good Level of Development scores have further improved
- Year 1 Phonics screening results have further improved
- Attainment remains well above national average and Warrington averages in all phases of the school, including Year 2 and Year 6 results. Well done to all pupils and our hardworking staff.

Increasing the number of middle ability children who gain the higher levels remains a key area of focus, as highlighted by Ofsted. The leadership team continue with their observations of lessons and book monitoring continues to take place and indicates effective feedback is being given to pupils in order for them to improve their work. Challenge for pupils is evident in books to help children work at higher standards. This will continue to be assessed by the Governing Body Curriculum Committee. We look forward to seeing our final results collated against national results, which fluctuate annually.

English Speaking Assessments

In April a team of governors undertook the duty of the English Speaking Assessments for the whole of year 5. The pupils had worked very hard to prepare for the assessments and despite some nerves enjoyed the process, nearly as much as governors did! It was a pleasure to see the pupils present on a variety of topics



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and to demonstrate their depth of questioning and answering skills. We look forward to working with school again on this programme next year.

Facilities and Building

As governors we are responsible for the facilities and building and we strive to make continual improvements. We have been extremely disappointed to have the west wing extension cordoned off for the period of time that we have however, as you may be aware in the new year a tile cracked and fell from the fascia. The contractor returned to site, rectified the issue and assured us that the installation was safe. We then removed the cordon. Some weeks afterwards the issue occurred again. As Chair of Governors I immediately took steps to have the area closed once again and informed the contractor, LA and the school business manager informed HSE. I asked for another full inspection of all fascias and a complete and absolute assurance of safety. Much to our frustration and disappointment this has not been forthcoming. I appreciate everyone's concerns regarding restricted access, and share them myself, however the safety of pupils, staff and families is my primary focus and this will remain as such until responsibilities are adequately met by those involved. I have attended many meetings - with panel manufacturers, adhesive manufacturers, contractors, the Local Authority and the project managers and will continue to press for a complete and satisfactory outcome for us all. As the Local Authority is the Client for the building works the decision on remedy ultimately rests in their hands. I kindly ask for your continued patience in me seeking the right outcome for us all which is 100% assurance of safety.

Happy Hares

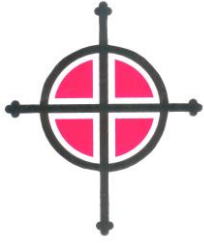
After a feedback consultation with parents and pupils who use the facility we have approved further spending on resources and changes to the everyday running of Happy Hares. These changes include how children are collected by staff, food arrangements and layout of the rooms amongst others. Initial feedback has been very positive and we are pleased to receive all comments. There are significant waiting lists for all phases of the provision and we want the facility to continue to operate well. I have been carrying out spot checks to see the facility in operation and speak to the children who are there and will continue to do so.

Pupil Premium

We recently carried out our bi-annual pupil premium review and can summarise our findings accordingly:

- There are 30 PP children at school, equating to 6% of the school and they are from three groups – Free School Meals, Adopted Children and Children of Service Women and Men.
- 23 of these pupils have met Age Related Expectations (ARE) combined (reading, writing and maths) which equates to 77% of PP children – an increase of 4%.
- 6 children have made accelerated progress where they have moved from 'working towards' ARE to ARE, or from ARE to Greater Depth (GD), an area of focus from our last Ofsted Inspection.
- Intervention provision maps are compiled per class/year group and any barriers to learning are clearly identified which has assisted with setting intervention and strategies. Interventions are

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varied and include, amongst others - play therapy, precision teaching, Nessy, 'TalkAbout' programme, anger and anxiety strategies and CBT.

Governors are satisfied that PP spending is being used effectively for best impact for the PP pupils.

Stonewall Training

We are delighted to announce that school is now Stonewall accredited. For those unfamiliar with Stonewall they offer training, resources and membership programmes to empower teachers and education professionals to tackle homophobia, biphobia and transphobia in schools. We remain absolutely committed to inclusivity and equality as a school and governing body, in line with our Christian and British values, as all our pupils are precious gifts who deserve equal access to learning and attainment.

Moving towards the holiday I have recently enjoyed attending various sports days and also hearing of the learning our pupils have gained by the visit from our South African link school head teacher Mr Marivate. After the success of the SIAMS inspections and another successful year there is much to be proud of as a school, most especially of all our pupils and the work of our dedicated staff.

With best wishes for a safe and sunny summer break. I wish continued success to every child moving on to their new high school in September and look forward to welcoming new families to our school.

Kate Strickland-Wright
Chair of Governors