

July 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

On behalf of the school governors, we are writing to keep you up to date with what we are doing. Working with the Senior Leadership Team of the school, the Governing Body's role is to provide strong strategic leadership and to be accountable for the quality of education provided by the school. Our core strategic functions are: to ensure clarity of vision, ethos and direction; to maintain the headteacher's focus on educational performance; and to oversee finances.

The school has had a full roll for six months now, and the Governing Body is considering what we want the school to be like in five or ten years. We have a few ideas. These include developing the school's role on weekends and outside school hours, as a community resource for lifetime learning, and also as an exciting space for events. We would welcome input from the school community about what the school could be like in the future. You can email us at [governors@highgate-pri.haringey.sch.uk](mailto:governors@highgate-pri.haringey.sch.uk).

We have been very pleased by the work of Michael Batoux in the kitchen. Several governors have had meals at the school, and we have also monitored comments made to school staff from pupils and adults. Thank you Michael! Your role is crucial to making the school a happy and healthy place.

One of the governors visited the School Council. This visit was discussed at a Full Governing Body meeting, and governors were very pleased to hear of the determination, maturity, and thoughtfulness of the School Council members. We will be continuing to note the issues raised by the School Council, and governors will continue to attend the meetings at times.

Throughout their career, staff members in a primary school will develop their experience and seek more senior roles, and we have been pleased that there have been several opportunities within Highgate Primary (such as opportunities to lead in a subject, and Phase Leader roles). We also understand that at times staff members may need to seek promotion outside the school in order to further their careers. We are proud of the support and training in place at Highgate Primary, and regularly review the work senior staff do in order to mentor student teachers, teaching assistants and other staff. Governors in subcommittees and the Full Governing Body meetings have discussed staff retention regularly, and are keen to continue to promote a school with a stable and satisfied staff community.

The work of the PSA and the School Development Officer has continued to be exceptional, and we are very pleased that the Upper Playground will be developed over coming months. Governors attended the Summer Fair and the Auction of Promises, both of which were monumental achievements by the PSA.

The Key Stage 2 SATs results have very recently arrived, after the last Full Governing Body meeting. However, individual Governors have reviewed the results, and are very pleased with how they reflect a year of extremely close focus on pupils in many different groups, which has led to results above national in all key measures. The 2017 SATs results were

largely in line with National, whereas this year the results are 10% to 15% above National, both on “Expected Standard” and “At Greater Depth”.

We are also pleased that attendance has improved significantly. The school’s Senior Leadership Team, working with the office, has worked very hard to put in place several interventions to improve attendance, and these have clearly had an impact. This has been a key focus for the Governing Body this year. Thank you to families and staff who have appreciated the importance of attendance and punctuality and contributed to this improvement.

The Governing Body is keenly aware of the work the staff at school do to provide enjoyable, satisfying, growthful and academically productive days for our pupils. We acknowledge with awe the very full days staff have, setting up lessons, keeping their classrooms in order, planning ahead, and expecting the best from every single pupil. We thank you all.

Wishing you all the best for the summer break,

Jake Baker (Chair of Governors and parent)  
Steven Porter (Vice chair of Governors and parent)  
Liam Frost (Co-opted Governor and parent)  
Sharminee Kumaradevan (Parent Governor)  
on behalf of the Full Governing Body

More detail about the work of the Governing Body and its membership can be found on the school website, at <http://www.highgateprimaryschool.co.uk/our-school/governors>.