



The Governing Body of Owlsmoor Primary School

REPORT TO PARENTS FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR 2020/2021

1. INTRODUCTION

The Governors present this, their Annual Report for 2020/2021 following the discontinuation of the School Profile publication.

The Governing Body has carried out its legal duties, and has supported the Headteacher and her staff, ensuring the opportunity of an excellent education for all our children in a happy and secure learning environment.

2. THE GOVERNING BODY

The members of the Governing Body are:

Name:

Mrs E Cole	Headteacher
Mrs C Jones Chairman	Local Authority Governor
Mrs A Allard	Co-Opted Governor
Mr S Beattie	Co-Opted Governor
Mr B Francis Vice Chairman	Co-Opted Governor
Mrs J Lucas	Co-Opted Governor
Mr J Slot	Co-Opted Governor
Mrs K Tickner	Co-Opted Governor
Mr D Barnett	Parent Governor
Mr R Fox	Parent Governor
Miss C Fromont	Parent Governor
Miss E Horner	Staff Governor
Mrs F Stanton	Clerk to the Governors

3. ACTIVITIES OF THE GOVERNORS

There have been ten Full Governing Body meetings this year (all held virtually) to receive and discuss the matters of the committees (Resources, Curriculum and Pastoral, and Communication and Community), and to receive the termly Headteacher's reports. These regular meetings give all Governors a greater understanding of the issues of the school and enables informed decisions to be made on a more regular basis.

The Governors work closely with the school on strategic planning. This year, due to the pandemic we attended the inset day with staff virtually, in the summer term. The Governors' Management Plan links all the work in the Governor committees, the School Development Plan and the Headteacher's performance targets to raise standards in management and leadership and ultimately pupils' outcomes

In addition to attending formal meetings and Governor training, outside of pandemic conditions, Governors regularly visit the school to see the children at work, are in attendance at the parent consultations and parent forums and take part in various school activities. All Governors also take on specific roles within the Governing Body and work closely with staff co-ordinators.

No expenses have been claimed or paid to the Governors. I am well aware that costs have been incurred and the school benefits from the Governors' generosity.

4. RESOURCES COMMITTEE REPORT (Chairman: Mrs Angela Allard)

Staffing

I am sorry to have to say that we shall be saying goodbye to six members of staff at the end of term, Miss E Horner Y6, Miss S Parkinson Y6, Miss J Hunt Y5, Mr B Horton Y1, Miss S Edwards (Reception) and Mrs G Read TA. We would like to say a big thank you to them all for all their hard work and dedication during their time at Owlsmoor Primary School, and to wish them all the very best in the future. I am pleased to be able to say that interviews have taken place and five new teachers will be joining our staff in September.

A Bursar/School Business Manager post is being recruited at the time of writing.

Premises

Over the course of the academic year, the school's two boilers have been replaced, a new server installed, a fibre optic cable connected to complement the wireless access points installed in 2019/20, a 121-breakout room created and one set of male staff toilets have been refurbished and repurposed for Y6 pupils use to maintain the integrity of the year's bubble.

A concrete base was installed outside the area of the year 2 classrooms, with support from the PTA.

The refurbishment of the Y1 boys' toilets were completed by the end of the 2019/20 school year.

Future projects being scoped include modernising the: KS2 girls' toilets and the Out of School Club toilets.

Finance

The financial year ended on 31st March 2021 with total expenditure of £2.2m. Expenditure by category was broadly in line with budget. The school made a special purchase of books during the spring term c£18k.

A £195k balance has been carried forward to the 21/22 budget and has arisen due to additional in-year funding of c£60k and a Department of Education Catch Up premium to assist pupils with missed learning due to COVID-19 £25k and PE Grant c£15k, the remaining £90k continues to be the standard carry forward amount.

Expenditure during the year is closely monitored with the School Business Manager attending termly both one Full Governor Board meeting and meeting with the Resources' governor where the budget is reviewed.

Capital

The school's capital budget has been used to create a 1-2-1 breakout room and replace the school's server.

Budget 21/22

The Governing Body has given approval for planned expenditure of £2.6m during 20/21. The funding per pupil has increased by 11% compared to the previous year. Initial plans are to use this increased funding to replace some IT equipment including pupil laptops and ipads, projectors and smart panels.

Expenditure is analysed in the table below:

Main School Budget		
	Actual 20-21	Budget 21-22
	£	£
Teaching Staff	1,277,361	1,443,140
Other Employees	691,991	772,315
Premises	180,146	204,779
BFBC	41,704	62,924
Curriculum	74,020	137,369
Other Supplies / Services	329	58,526
Income	-90,121	-112,416
Total Expenditure	2,175,430	2,566,637
Balance carried forward (incl COVID Catch Up Funding to be used 2021/22)	194,750	

Devolved Capital		
	2020-21	2021-22
	£	£
Budget	10,490	10,434
Balance brought forward	5,255	5,463
Total	15,745	15,634
Spend	-10,282	
Carried Forward	5,463	

During the course of the last financial year 2020/2021 a number of financially related policies were reviewed and new procedures were adopted. Activities are undertaken to ensure good value is attained and that a high standard of financial control is maintained.

The school continues to buy back many of the services from Bracknell Forest Council. There are increasing pressures on the school budget and we are continually looking at cost savings across all areas. We remain committed to ensuring the best outcomes for all children of the school.

5. CURRICULUM & PASTORAL COMMITTEE REPORT (Chairman: Vacant position)

The Governors have been unable to continue much of their monitoring this year due to COVID-19. As always, we have been very impressed with the positivity that the pupils have towards their learning and the high standards of behaviour the children show.

The past year has seen a mix of lockdowns and full school opening. During the lockdowns the children that were in school were taught face-to-face by a teacher. All the other children were provided with remote learning which was planned and sent out via Teams by the other two teachers in the year group. Our remote learning offer was placed on our website and was a mixture of power points, recorded lessons, voice overs, worksheets and links to relevant websites. The whole concept of remote learning has been a challenge for the school, and staff have worked tirelessly to ensure that our provision has been accessible to all those children who were not in school. Feedback on work was provided daily through whole class feedback and all pupils received at least weekly feedback in both English and maths. All children had opportunities to take part in weekly live chats with their class teacher and their peers. Laptops were offered to pupils who would otherwise not be able to access the remote learning provision.

During the Summer Term governors usually meet with subject leaders to discuss the strengths and areas for development of their subject. This has not been possible this year face to face but Governors have had where possible a virtual meeting or telephone conversation to discuss the subjects.

The data group goes deeply into the performance data of the school, looking at the school results in relation to national results. There have been no national data released for the academic years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021. The internal school data is looked at by the data committee for each year group across reading, writing, maths and science. This is checked for attainment and progress and any areas of concern are followed up in detail.

Safeguarding forms part of every Governor meeting and the Safeguarding Governor continues to monitor safeguarding. Safeguarding of pupils and staff members has been a high priority during lockdown and remains as the pandemic continues. All children are still sticking to their bubbles for lunches and playtimes and there is no movement of staff between year group bubbles. Surfaces, equipment and touch points are being cleaned throughout the day. I can't overestimate the amount of time that everyone is spending on ensuring that all our school community are protected whilst trying to keep the school running as normally as possible.

The Growth Mindset and Habits of Mind initiatives are important aspects of the children's personal, social, health and emotional development and are a welcome and effective way of ensuring the children's happiness in school.

6. COMMUNICATION & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE REPORT (Chairman: Miss Christina Fromont)

The priorities of the Communications and Community committee are:

- To co-ordinate improved communication between the school, parents, Governors and community.
- To raise the profile of the school within the community.
- To review current practices and develop new procedures and publications.
- To ensure RRS (Rights Respecting Schools) is embedded within the work of the Governors. This is implemented by referencing the UNICEF Articles where appropriate in all documentation.

Although we would have liked to continue with the Parents Forum this year, we have been unable to due to covid restrictions. However, Head Teacher Mrs Cole and the teaching staff have continued to provide channels of communication to parents through email, phone calls and video conferencing. Hopefully, we can re-instate the parent forums next year if covid restrictions allow.

We continue to monitor the school website closely to ensure it meets statutory requirements and although Governors have been unable to make regular visits into the school, classrooms and school events we have continued to monitor remotely. This has helped the Governors to make more informed decisions. We will again carry out a year six leavers' survey towards the end of the term.

Head Teacher Mrs Cole reports termly to the committee on discussions that have taken place across the school social media channel (Facebook).

The PTA is going from strength to strength and continues to do as much as possible during this year's covid restrictions. More recently they successfully ran a second hand uniform and plant sale. Their work is very much appreciated and the money they have raised this year has been put towards many items to benefit the school. Our thanks goes to them for their continued hard work this year but in particular for the hard-work involving collecting and organising laptops for pupils to use at home during the school closures.

We have continued to look for opportunities for positive press coverage. A revamped advertisement continues to appear in the Sandhurst Residents' Association booklet promoting the Nursery.

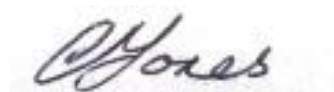
7. IN CONCLUSION

The Governors would like to thank the PTA for their tremendous efforts over the last year. We appreciate a lot of work goes into the events the PTA run and the additional money raised benefits children throughout the school.

All staff and Governors continue to strive to achieve outstanding as a school and we look forward to continuing our work in enabling all pupils to achieve even better outcomes in the wider curriculum, whilst at the same time maintaining a secure, safe, nurturing and happy environment.

This has been another unprecedented year with Covid 19 and lockdowns. We are so very proud and grateful to all the staff that have continued to work tirelessly to ensure a safe environment is maintained in the school whilst delivering a curriculum to the children either face to face or virtually to support their learning.

We have seen a tremendous team effort from everybody again this year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow Governors for all their hard work and support, Mrs Cole and her staff for their relentless hard work and commitment to ensure the positive outcomes of all our pupils, you, as parents, for the wonderful support you give your children and the school and finally the children who always make our visits such a pleasure.



Chris Jones

Chairman of Governors

July 2021