

Dear Parents and Carers,

On behalf of the school governors, we are writing to keep you up to date with how we are working with our school community.

In what has been a very difficult and challenging year for everyone, we also want to say a public thank you to the whole school community.

First, a thank you to William, Rebecca and all the staff for their incredible hard work throughout the year and in particular in rising to the various challenges that Covid 19 has thrown at them, from remote learning and key worker school provision during the first lockdown, to bubbles, masks, testing, isolation and absences since the return to school. The governors have continued to visit the school and attend governors' meetings and sub-committees throughout this period – with masks and social distancing or on Zoom as appropriate – and we know how focused and determined the school staff have been to continue the wonderful atmosphere of engagement, creativity, learning and social interaction at the school and to ensure children's learning is at the heart of everything they do.

We know that the staff work together to build and strengthen this environment, praising children for what they are doing well, helping children recover from mistakes, and always being there when support is needed. This year considerable extra support has been needed to ensure that no child falls behind owing to Covid-19. We are grateful to all the staff for the extra time they have put in and for caring deeply about the school and its children.

Secondly, thank you to the children who have shown incredible resilience in adapting to the various changes to school this year and who continue to fill the school with energy, smiles and laughter. When we visit we see the eager engagement with topic work and we see and hear children enjoying their reading, maths and extended writing, or discussing issues with each other. We also recognise how important sport / PE has been since the return to school in September and know that the children have thrown themselves back into this with vigour.

Finally, a thank you to all of you, our parents and carers. We know it has not been easy – from juggling home schooling with work, to adapting to changes to drop off / pick up and to the usual school timetable. We know that all the school staff have really appreciated your patience and support throughout this year.

We would also like to give you some information about the work of the Governing Body. 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.

The Department for Education states that the Governing Body has three core strategic functions:

- a) Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.
- b) Holding the Head to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils.
- c) Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

Reflecting on the impact of the Governing Body's work over the past 12 months, we are proud of many of the school's achievements, including:

- Management of Covid Arrangements
- Curriculum Review
- A culture of reading
- Improved Home learning
- Racial Equality and Anti Racism Strategy

The Governing Body has worked closely with Senior Leadership Team to develop priorities for the annual School Development Plan (SDP). The SDP sets out key areas for development. This year some of these include:

- Health and Well being of Staff and Pupils
- Catch Up Programs
- Equality Policies, with a particular focus on racial equality
- Premises Development

The Governing Body continues to support and challenge the Senior Leadership Team. After identifying skills gaps within the Governing Body through a Skills Audit, we have co-opted governors with expertise in finance and safeguarding of pupils. We have also focussed on improving diversity in the Governing Body. The new governors have already made significant contributions to the school's progress and development.

The governors have continued to carry out targeted visits or zoom meetings with the school. These have been in areas such as:

- Curriculum, especially looking at Reading
- School meals
- Covid Arrangements

Governors have also attended training sessions run by the London Borough of Haringey, including

- New Governor Induction
- Finance for Governors
- Safeguarding
- BAME and Equality

Going forwards there are many areas the Governing Body will continue to work on and develop. For example:

- To aim for all children to be in school all of the time
- To continue to prepare for Ofsted as we are due this academic year
- To continue to raise awareness of who we are in relation to the whole school community
- To redevelop the school's vision for the next five years

The work with regard to updating the school vision will involve consultation with all sections of the community in the summer term. Please do start to have informal discussions with one another about how you would like the school to be in 2025.

The Governing Body is energetic and hard-working in its commitment to supporting the school at every level. We will strive to continue to ensure that we are monitoring the school's progress and that our work makes a positive impact on the whole school community. We always welcome your feedback, so if you would like to contact us, please feel free to do so using our email [governors@highgate-pri.haringey.sch.uk](mailto:governors@highgate-pri.haringey.sch.uk)

Warmest wishes to you all for a wonderful break this winter, please stay safe.

Steve Porter	(Chair of Governors)
Louisa Caswell	(Vice Chair of Governors)
Laura Eden	(Parent Governor and Chair of Safeguarding Subcommittee)

on behalf of the Full Governing Body.