

Governor Newsletter Issue 2

Dear Parents,

Welcome to our second governor newsletter where we wish to share our work and recent highlights from the school.

Outdoor Learning

We recently hosted an outdoor learning event for 10 of our local schools. The childcare centre and the foundation stage offered this special experience for children and professional development for staff. It was a great day and a wonderful way to share our expertise. Well done to all the staff involved.

Increased age range

When Leighswood children's centre closed, our school took on the building and the childcare facilities. This now means that our age range is from 2-11 as we look after children age 2, 3 and 4 at the centre during the school day as well as before and after school. We also have stay and play sessions with spaces available, the cost is £1.50.

Monday 1.15-2.45 stay and play babies (up to walking stage)

Wednesday 1.15-2.45 stay and play toddlers

If you know anyone with young children then please let them know about these sessions.

Children's University

We are delighted to have joined a nationwide scheme called the Children's University. Children from key stage 2 will be encouraged to take part in extracurricular activities and collect stamps in their own 'passport' to record their activities. The stamps then equate to rewards/certificates that are presented at awards ceremonies similar to those given at university level. To find out more please look at the website www.childrensuniversity.co.uk or ask at the school office.

Parent Volunteers

A huge thank you to all of our great parent volunteers. Some parents help with admin duties like photocopying and others come along to listen to readers. We are immensely grateful to them all and are delighted to hear that quite a few of our previous volunteers have gone on to employment in schools. We are always looking for new volunteers so if you feel that you could spare a couple of hours a week, then we would love to hear from you.

Governor activity

Governors have been busy as usual. In addition to our meetings we make regular visits to the school. Since the last newsletter, governors have visited the school with regard to Literacy, Maths, Health & Safety, Safeguarding, Inclusion & Special needs and Equality. We meet with the relevant members of staff and often see classes at work and look in books. We were very impressed with the children's books that we have seen and we have put our special sticker on a few lovely pieces of work.

We have finalised some new school policies that can be found on the website; behaviour policy, child protection policy, SEN policy and the revised charging & remissions policy.

We have also taken part in an external review of governance. This is where the work of the governing body is scrutinised to ensure that we are providing a good service to the school and that we are fulfilling OFSTED requirements. We had our feedback on the 20th of October and we have been judged to be providing 'Strong Governance'. This is the highest judgement

and we are delighted. Many thanks to all the Governors and to Mr Speirs who was given a special mention by the advisor for providing excellent information to governors and working well with us.

PTA

We have a small but extremely hard working PTA. They arrange the Summer Fayre and Discos to raise much needed funds for the school. They have recently paid for the sound systems in both halls and a new canopy outside KS2. We really appreciate their time and dedication but they can only continue with the help of volunteers. If you can help out then please come along to their meetings or offer to help with the events. Any offers of help and support will be very welcome.

Results

We are again very pleased with the results from last year. In the key stage 1 phonics screening test, 89% of pupils passed which is a new record for Leighswood (national average was 77% in 2015). Congratulations to all the pupils and staff.

Key stage 1 and 2

We were very pleased by the achievements of our children in last year's SATS at KS2 and KS1. The children who left Year 6 in the summer had attained below national levels when they were in KS1. Last summer, at Level 4 and above, they attained above national levels in reading and writing, slightly above in SPAG and slightly below in Maths. At level 5 and above, they attained above national levels in reading and below in writing, SPAG and Maths. Two levels progress is what is expected from the end of Key Stage 1 to the end of Key Stage 2. In 2015, progress was particularly good in reading and writing and at national levels in Maths.

Progress:

Figures in brackets are national figures for 2015

	Below 2 levels	2 levels	Above 2 levels
Reading	4 (9)	96 (91)	41 (32)
Writing	1 (4)	99 (96)	30(35)
Maths	10 (10)	90 (90)	27 (33)

Attainment in 2015 in percentages:

	L4+ School	L4+ National	L4B+ School	L4B+ National	L5+ School	L5+ National	L6 School	L6 National
Reading	94	89	81	80	54	48	0	0
Writing	91	87	91	87	24	36	0	2
SPAG	79	80	67	73	43	55	6	4
Maths	83	87	71	77	37	41	10	9
Reading	83	79	72	67	19	24	0	0
Writing								
Maths								

Standards at Key Stage 1 2015

At KS1, attainment was in line with national levels at 2C+, 2B+ in reading, writing and Maths. It was at national levels at Level 3 in reading and Maths and slightly below in writing.

(National Data for 2015 in brackets)

	2c and above	2b and above	3 and above
Reading	90% (90%)	84% (82%)	29% (32%)
Writing	85% (88%)	67% (72%)	12% (18%)
Maths	93% (93%)	78% (82%)	25% (26%)

A big well done to all children in last year's Year 2 and Year 6 and all the staff for their hard work!

New Staff Members

We have a few new teachers joining us this year and we would like to wish a warm welcome to: Miss Jassell, Miss Aston, Miss Nehaar and Miss Cliff. They have all settled in really well.

Values

Teaching children values is such an important part of helping them to become responsible and good citizens in the future. This year, Leighswood School is teaching values in a really focussed way in our assemblies and in PSHE lessons.

Each month, children will learn about a particular value:

September Respect

October Friendship

November Thoughtfulness

The children's ideas will be displayed in each Key Stage hall on 'Our Values Tree'.

Contact us

Parent governors are happy to hear about your positive experiences at Leighswood School but if you have concerns, they must be addressed to the school.

Governors can be contacted in writing, envelopes marked for the attention of governors can be handed in at reception or received by mail. If you have any comments then we would be happy to hear from you.

Our Vision

We have been working on our vision for Leighswood. We would like to take this opportunity to share it with you and to hear your views. Please email any comments to postbox@leighswood.walsall.sch.uk

3 Year Vision

At **Leighswood** we are committed to providing quality learning from 2 to 11 for life-long learning from 11 and beyond. We aim to provide inspiring and creative learning experiences in a happy and stimulating environment so every child is challenged to achieve their best.

Our core aim is to continue to improve standards across our School. We will continue to raise pupil attainment and achievement by:

- Ensuring that all teaching is good or better.
- Ensuring that all children make expected progress and better.
- Enriching our curriculum so that it meets the range of our children's needs whilst being engaging and exciting.
- Enhancing our children's language and communication skills in all subjects through an emphasis on structured talk, reading comprehension skills and writing.
- Enhancing children's mathematical skills, knowledge and understanding.
- Enhancing children's abilities to apply skills in the core subjects and problem-solve.
- Developing their social and emotional well-being.
- Working in partnership with families and the local and wider community.

Leading learning	Creating a Learning Culture	The Learning Environment	The Learning Community
<p>We will embrace the opportunities to lead teaching and learning by...</p> <p>Ensuring the quality of education for all children remains our most important priority.</p> <p>Ensuring that the principles for school improvement are consistent across the school.</p> <p>Ensuring that assessment is used effectively to develop children's knowledge, understanding and skills.</p> <p>Ensuring that all children meet and exceed national expectations in English and mathematics and make at least expected progress through a key stage.</p> <p>Building the capacity of the school to lead on learning at all levels.</p> <p>Providing enriching learning experiences which inspire, motivate and challenge children to learn.</p>	<p>We will establish excellent conditions for learning by...</p> <p>Developing positive attitudes and behaviours for learning and developing values for life.</p> <p>Focusing on specific teaching and learning strategies and monitoring and evaluating the impact on pupils' progress.</p> <p>Tracking pupils' progress within the class, which provides the basis for professional dialogue about the learning of each child.</p> <p>Fostering skills for critical thinking, creativity, collaboration and social interaction.</p> <p>Ensuring that all staff have opportunities for professional development to ensure that we maintain a high level of expertise and motivation.</p>	<p>We will create an excellent environment for learning by...</p> <p>Providing a secure, enabling and stimulating learning environment.</p> <p>Developing respect for the environment and pride in the school.</p> <p>Targeting deployment of other adults to meet children's learning needs.</p> <p>Ensuring our environment enables children to be inquisitive and imaginative and to develop skills to learn with confidence and independence.</p> <p>Ensures that the pupils' voice is developed and shapes school action.</p> <p>Continue to develop and improve the buildings and the site to make it more attractive, accessible and conducive to learning for learners of all ages.</p>	<p>We will ensure that the school is a significant part of the community by...</p> <p>Identifying opportunities to engage all children fully in their learning.</p> <p>Identifying ways of overcoming barriers to children's learning.</p> <p>Ensuring key features of learning and expectations are shared with the children, their parents and carers.</p> <p>Encouraging the involvement of parents in their children's learning through sharing ways for parents to support their children's progress.</p> <p>Developing the role of governors in the school improvement process.</p> <p>Developing relationships with local organisations and schools to champion best practice.</p> <p>Integrating teacher training and university and college links.</p> <p>Developing support for families to enhance children's learning outcomes.</p>