

Oaklands Junior School

Headteacher - Mrs H West

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July 19th, 2022

Governing Body Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of the academic year, the whole Governing Team would like to sincerely thank all the children and their families for your continued support for our amazing school. We are delighted with the result of our Ofsted inspection, as Oaklands Junior School was awarded Good at our inspection in April. Please review a copy of the report here:

Ofsted

<https://oaklandsjunior-school.org.uk/info/ofsted/>

The Ofsted Inspector was highly complementary of all the children and how warmly Oaklands Junior children spoke about the school and the team of staff. Our Ofsted inspection reaffirmed the progressive and positive approach that the Senior Leadership Team have taken to ensuring a broad and engaging curriculum, backed up by the Thinking Schools ethos. The whole school staff work tirelessly to provide a supportive and safe environment for our pupils, and the Governing Body was delighted that the Inspector recognised this and fed this back to us. Whilst this report is hugely positive, Mrs West and her whole team are already putting into action suggestions made by the Inspector, who for the most part said to them to 'just keep doing what you're doing'.

Staffing

Our sincere thanks to the outstanding staffing team, we are so grateful to this wonderful team who pour all their passion, care, commitment, and drive into Oaklands Junior School to provide the children with the very best experience, learning journey and environment possible. The Senior Leadership Team: Mrs West, Mr Holland, Mr Lee and Miss Noad, excelled during the Ofsted visit and all their hard work in continuously raising standards was acknowledged.

Next academic year the staff team continues to remain a constant. Please find below a link to the staff list for the next academic year and a link to the full staffing team with pictures for a who's who:

<https://oaklandsjunior-school.org.uk/letters/staffing-2022-2023/>

<https://oaklandsjunior-school.org.uk/staff/>

New Governors

I am delighted to say the Oaklands Junior School's team of governors has grown this year. We have welcomed 3 new Co-Opted Governors, please find details below. We are a team of 17 governors strong and continue to drive our strategic governance. Please find details of our new governors below,

Bisi Olaleye

Education is one of the factors that most influences the progress of people and societies. I am currently a Software Engineer, with my background in STEM, I will be applying my problem solving, supporting & communication skills that I have acquired over a period in this role. I also think it is time to start giving back to society what I have personally acquired over the years. I am also looking forward to working with other people with the same objective of contributing to the success and well-being of the pupils, using the best resources available to us in this role as a governor.

Jonathan Wood

My family and I have lived in the area for the past 7 years. I have 2 children, who both attend Oaklands schools. As a cyber-security engineer of nearly 20 years, I value the importance that learning has to unlock potential, both in formal education and beyond. I believe that helping children become more aware of the learning process itself is enormously important to lifetime development, and have an interest in the Thinking School accreditation that Oaklands Junior School holds. As a governor, I look forward to helping challenge and support Oaklands Junior School and positively impact the standard of education provided to local children.

Stuart Hine

I currently hold the position of Head Chef where I have five years in this role leading a team of twelve. Having gained over thirty year's experience in Catering and Hospitality, within well-known Hotel Brands and large conference venues. Formerly a member of the World Master Chefs Society which aims for Culinary Excellence in all fields.

I am driven and passionate in all tasks undertaken and thoroughly enjoyed being involved in the Chefs Adopt a school program run by the Academy of Culinary Arts. I took on two schools with a selection of lessons and learning to broaden the children's education and understanding.

Education has been a big part of my family with my wife teaching for over 25 years and currently an active member of the school PTA. Outside interests include running, playing golf and busy weekends with children's sporting clubs and activities.

Corvus Learning Trust

We are delighted to continue to work so closely with our Trust. Being part of a Trust provides us with significant benefits, including but not limited to our Trust Primary Improvement team and the ability to review decisions for our Trust Infant, Junior, and Primary schools as a group. We recently welcomed Sandhurst School to our Trust. Mrs West and I visited Sandhurst School where we were given a warm welcome, with a tour of the school and the opportunity to meet staff. We also recently attended the Festival of Education at Wellington College, where Mr Holland presented on Thinking Schools. This was a fantastic event and we are thankful to Mr Holland for his excellent presentation and sharing his knowledge with other schools keen to embrace the Thinking Schools ethos. Our sincere thanks to Bob Elsey, Stuart Matthews and Graham Oakley and our fantastic Trustees and Members for their ongoing expertise, help and support.

Stakeholder surveys

It is a vital part of our role as your Governing Body that we understand and act upon the views of our stakeholders. We have therefore continued with our stakeholder surveys for parents/carers, children (Pupil Voice), in year leavers prior to end of year 6 (exit survey), children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), year 6 leavers and all Oaklands Junior school staff. These surveys enable us to make comparisons and changes where needed. Thank you to everyone that has kindly taken the time to complete the parent and carer survey so far, your responses are greatly appreciated. The results are presented to the Governing Body and Senior Leadership team and recommendations made as a result. These surveys are all anonymous and we will be feeding back the results of our parent/carers and pupil voice survey in the Autumn term. Here is the link to this year's parent survey if you have not yet completed it:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=k9-U8cxAHESzZ3GJMpa0Ggm8UWqOJ4JOuWYKYZ9EKtJUN1JRUUtQVjY2STRLN09KSFA1WDBWWec1Sy4u>

Governor subject link responsibilities

We have refreshed our subject link governor programme which assigns a governor to each curriculum area allowing greater insight into the curriculum, targets set and how it is being taught. It provides a great opportunity for the governors to get to know the teaching staff, understand curriculum sequencing and to provide support and challenge. Over and above this, we have continued to ensure we meet our statutory duties with safeguarding, a top priority for us. We are very fortunate to have Esther Blake as our safeguarding governor, who has a wealth of knowledge in this area. Please find a link to governor responsibilities:

<https://oaklandsjunior-school.org.uk/governors/governors-key-documentation/>

New Governance initiatives – this year we have raised the standards of our Governance by,

- 360 review of the chair of governors – Charlotte Kieran
- Governors' roles and responsibilities – job descriptions
- Transition and succession planning for governors – annual skills audit, letter for new joiners, buddy program
- Linking with Edgbarrow school for feedback on pupil progress
- Annual governor day in school
- LGB self-evaluation and plan – in progress Link governors for SEND/PP, safeguarding, English, Maths, Science – we want to cover all areas of the curriculum
- Parent, carer, and visitor conduct policy (including raising a concern)
- Link governors
- SEND and in-year leaver surveys
- Annual partnership review document with CLT, written by OJS Chair
- OJS LGB synopsis to CLT
- Recruitment of 3 new governors, one further governor in discussions
- Revised Risk register

Attendance % and Pupil admission number (PAN)

We want to visibly and substantively improve the community we are embedded within. Part of our strategic plan focuses on our school occupancy numbers and attendance. I am pleased to report school attendance has been 97.5% this term. In line with the Department for Education net capacity assessment, we can accommodate 32 children per class, as we are a two-form entry school our year groups have 64 children each – total capacity is 256 children. I am delighted to report that this year we have been 97% full and next academic year we will continue this trend with years 4 and 6 full - 100% capacity, with a waiting list. In September we will have, 1 space in year 3 and 2 spaces in year 5. Please support us in our common goal to reach 100% occupancy and recommend your school to prospective parents that need a place for their child.

Finance

We continue to manage the school budget, decide on how to spend the delegated school budget, and ensure accurate school accounts are kept. Please see the finance and premises report at the end of this letter for an update.

PTA and Carnival Committee

At this point, we would like to thank our fabulous PTA, Chaired by Rebecca Legg, and Carnival Committee Chaired by Susie Habgood, for all the work they do/have done. Their fundraising makes a real difference to the school and the experiences of our children. Both groups are made up of passionate volunteers who gave up their valuable time to enrich the children's journey at Oaklands Schools. Please continue to support the ongoing fundraising by the PTA.

OJS Governors

My heartfelt thanks to our outstanding team of Governors for your incredible work this year. Our Governors are a passionate group of volunteers that work to support and challenge the school to raise standards and continued excellence. I am incredibly proud to work with such a wonderful team.

Partnership with parents and carers

The Governing Body want to express their sincere thanks to you as parents and carers for everything you have done, your support is immeasurable. We welcome your feedback and look forward to continuing working in partnership with you.

We want to say goodbye to our fantastic year six pupils and wish them best of luck as they move onto next stage of education. We know our school has nurtured and encouraged them to believe and achieve; we wish you well with your next adventure!

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to our new year 3 families joining the Oaklands Juniors community in September. We are looking forward to working in partnership with you and embarking on a successful journey where your child(ren) learn and flourish over the next four years.

Finally, we would like to wish our children, parents, and staff a restful summer break. The Oaklands Junior School team are very much looking forward to welcoming you all back in September.

Your faithfully,





Finance and Premises (F & P) Committee Report 2021 - 2022

Learning to Think and Thinking to Learn, the Oaklands' mindset for the entire school community.

Our thinking school provides a solid learning environment to inspire, motivate and challenge our children to reach their full potential. The environment is created by the headteacher and staff but requires high-quality facilities and sufficient funding. It is the duty of the Finance and Premises Committee to ensure strong financial management resulting in the best possible use of our schools funding and premises. The aim and purpose of the committee is simple, what will give the maximum benefit to our children.

With an annual income of circa £1.2m, monitoring expenditure is key. Three-quarters of the income is spent on staff costs with the remainder split between learning resources, running costs and maintenance of our buildings and grounds. Even with a tight budget, the school is progressive, with a plan for projects into the future ensuring continual improvement of our school.

Regular maintenance is essential, and the committee undertakes two internal and external inspections of the school and grounds each year. This enables us to identify and record any issues that need addressing plus monitor the progress of anything detected on previous inspections. Inspections are undertaken by two school governors in conjunction with the site controller.

Issues noted during an inspection along with reparation progress are monitored at the quarterly Finance and Premises committee meetings until any required works have been completed. This allows us to prioritise the more urgent jobs but also look at the long-term planning for larger more costly undertakings.

The larger projects almost always require additional funding over and above the allowance within the school budget. In the future, proposals are prepared and issued to the Corvus Trust board for consideration with respect to the funding. This is something that all the schools in the Trust have the ability to do and then the Trust will make the decision on which projects go-ahead. Considerations for the additional funding take into account how pressing the need but most importantly, what will have the most significant impact on the children.

The school is extremely well managed and as such this financial year-end position is looking positive. Some income streams have been lost but careful management of expenditure has enabled the school to balance out these losses. The challenge for the year ahead will be to manage the ever-increasing costs with a reduced annual income. I am sure the school approach to this predicament will not be one of worry but a plan to maintain and strengthen our position. Voluntary school donations will help significantly, and I hope, once again, our parents will be able to assist us with this revenue stream.

Martin Cox

Chair of the Finance and Premises Committee