

GOVERNORS' NEWSLETTER



Summer Term 2023

Welcome from the Chair

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. Oaklands Junior School is all about teamwork and we are fortunate to have an incredible evolved community spirit at our school that has grown through close collaboration between staff, children, parents and governors.

We want that collaboration to carry on growing, and are conducting a review of our strategic plan to ensure we continue to be aligned with the Trust's strategic areas of focus. We will be using the feedback from the parent/carers, staff, and pupil voice surveys to ensure everyone's voice is considered and included over the coming months. Our vision centres around the 4 key stakeholders of our school – the children, parents, staff, and local community. We are setting some ambitious targets for the next 3 years. More will follow on this in the autumn term newsletter. [Click here to view your team of governors.](#)

Staffing

Our sincere thanks to our outstanding staffing 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 of Mrs West, Mr Holland, Mr Lee and Miss Noad, continue to excel, with their tireless hard work and dedication to the school. We are incredibly lucky to have such a committed and talented team, and we continue to enjoy very strong staff retention, with no changes to the teaching staff. [Click here for 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.](#)

Stakeholder surveys

It is a crucial 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/carer survey, your responses are greatly appreciated. We will feedback the planned initiatives in response to the survey feedback in our Autumn newsletter.

Parent survey results 2023

We are delighted that we had 131 responses, which means 62% of our parent community completed the survey. We aligned our survey questions with the same questions Ofsted ask when they complete the Parent survey during an Ofsted visit. Overall there is a rise across all areas in percentage overall agreement. Read the results in full **here**.



- 96%** My child is happy at Oaklands Junior School
- 96%** My child feels safe at this school
- 98%** My child is well looked after at this school
- 92%** There is a respectful & trustworthy relationship at this school.
- 90%** I would recommend this school to another parent.
- 93%** There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school
- 92%** My child can take part in clubs and activities at this school.
- 94%** This school encourages my child to take personal responsibility for their actions

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 **96.24%** this academic year. In line with the Department for Education net capacity assessment, we can accommodate 32 children per class, and 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 **99.2% full** and next academic year we will continue this trend with years 4, 5 and 6 full – 100% capacity, with a waiting list. In September we are not currently predicted to be full in year 3. 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.



Corvus Learning Trust

We are delighted to continue to work so closely with everyone in our Trust. Being part of a Trust provides us with significant benefits, including but not limited to Trust wide policies being utilised at our school, the Trust wide review of our governance, our Trust Primary development team, and the ability to review decisions for our schools as a group. Our Chair, Charlotte Kieran has attended the Trust Chairs' meetings throughout this academic year, where among other key discussions, we have been given the opportunity to review and input into the Trust strategic plan (below). Our sincere thanks to Bob Elsey, Stuart Matthews, Graham Oakley, Suzanne Higgins and Amy Chapman and our fantastic Trust central team, Trustees and Members for their ongoing expertise, help and support. [Click to view the Trust 3 year strategic plan 2023-2026](#)



Bob Elsey – Corvus Learning Trust CEO

Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to comment on the wonderful work of Oaklands Junior School governing body. I think the school is very fortunate to have such a supportive and pro-active team of governors who are interested in all aspects of school life. I believe, through their involvement, this gives the SLT and staff the confidence to lead and deliver an outstanding education to all their pupils.

You offer a level of challenge to school leaders that is only to ensure the very best for the children and staff. However, I am also aware of the pastoral care that you have for individuals, families and the whole staff. I am in no doubt that this is appreciated.

In recent weeks, a prospective school asked to visit one of our Trust schools and you were gracious enough to welcome them on behalf of the Trust. I know you represented your school and the Trust in the most professional and positive way, and that the visit was very much enjoyed.

My sincere thanks for your time, effort and continued support.



Stuart Matthews – Corvus Director of Education

I have enjoyed working with and visiting the Oaklands Juniors Local Governing Body. The governing body diligently support and appropriately challenge school leaders and the Trust. The Local Governing Body are clearly passionate about the school and delivering the best, well rounded education for the pupils. It is important to remember that Governors give their time voluntarily to support their community, this time is given freely and expertly and are well led by the Chair. I am extremely grateful for all the team do.



Governor subject link programme

We have 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. We are expanding our subject link programme in Autumn 2023 and will update you with a full link list. 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 Nada Harding and Peter Wright as our safeguarding governors.

[Click here to read about the curriculum plan at Oaklands Junior school for every year group and each subject.](#)



Governor training programme

This year Governors attended a series of courses with Bracknell Forest Governor services to enrich and empower their knowledge, including,

- Induction for New Governors,
- Clerks' Briefing
- Chairs' Briefing
- Ofsted inspections: Step-by-step
- Governors' Role in Pupil Premium
- Digital Safeguarding – How do you know what you don't know
- Developing your skills as a governor
- Safeguarding for Governors Part 1 & 2
- Taking the Chair
- Governors' Role in Behaviour Management
- Engaging with Curriculum



Safeguarding training

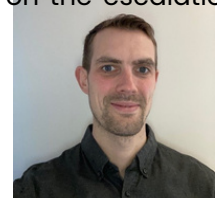
Gary Burrige attended a two session safeguarding training course and had the following feedback

The Governor Safeguarding training was incredibly informative, the training was broken down into two primarily areas:

- Safeguarding issues faced today in schools and how they can be identified with best practice guidance for schools
- The responsibilities of the governing bodies in ensuring the school has a safe environment with regards to Safeguarding

The training highlighted the volume of safeguarding related incidents that are happening not only nationally but locally, and that abuse is not limited to socio-economic factors, but there are a variety of situations that can trigger abuse inside and outside of the school that responsible individuals within the school need to be vigilant with.

The Training highlights the need for strong Safeguarding and Anti-Bullying policies, that is understood and implemented by all in the school (Staff and Pupils), so that Adults in the school are trained and aware of the signs of abuse and are clear on the escalation protocol when concerns are identified.



Finance and Premises Committee Report 2022 – 2023

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.

Large projects require additional funding over and above the allowance within the school budget. In this instance, proposals are prepared and issued to the Corvus Trust board for consideration with respect to the funding. All schools in the Trust have to adopt this approach and the Trust makes the decision on which projects go-ahead. I am pleased to announce that our school has recently secured funding on a four-year project to replace the entire electrical system and perimeter fences.

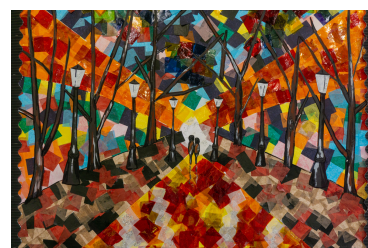
The school is extremely well managed and successfully navigated this financial year without exceeding the tight budget constraints. There are no surplus funds to carry forward and as such, a balanced budget for 2023 – 2024 has been submitted to the Corvus Trust board. Significant increased costs for utilities along with the effects of inflation have resulted in the school having to make difficult decisions with respect to expenditure. Rest assured, the children's education, safety and well-being have all been at the forefront of these decisions. The F & P governors are satisfied with the school's approach and along with strong management of the budget know every effort will be made by the school to secure additional funding from other revenue streams. PTA and voluntary school donations will help significantly, and I hope, once again, our parents will be able to assist us with these revenue streams.

Martin Cox

Chair of the Finance and Premises Committee



oaklandsjunior-school.org.uk



PTA

We would like to thank our fabulous PTA, Chaired by Sarah Gordon for all the work they do and have done this academic year. Their fundraising makes a real difference to the school and the experiences of our children. The PTA are volunteers who give up their valuable time to enrich the children's journey at Oaklands Schools. Please continue to support the ongoing fundraising by the PTA over the next academic year – it is more important than ever.

[Click here to donate to the PTA](#)



Year 6 KS2 SATS results 2023

Congratulations to our outstanding year 6 children on their KS2 SATS results. With 87% achieving the expected standard in reading, 78% achieving the expected standard in writing and 95% achieving the expected standard in maths. All of the results are significantly higher than the comparable 2023 national results. We look forward to being able to share the comparison with the local results when this is published in September.

We are incredibly proud of all that you have achieved. Our sincere thanks to their families and the incredible staffing team that has taught, nurtured and supported them.

Oaklands Junior School KS2 Headlines	2023 results 62 pupils	2022 results 66 pupils	2023 National result	2022 National result
% achieving expected standard + in Reading	87	82	73	75
% achieving the expected standard + in Writing*	78	68	71	69
% achieving the expected standard + in Maths	95	85	73	71
% achieving the expected standard or above combined	73	65	59	59
% achieving the expected standard or above in GPS	97	86	72	72



Message from the Chair

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. Every governor in our team has a specific role and link to a curriculum subject lead. The updated list will be published in our Autumn newsletter, along with all the visits to school that governors complete throughout the year. Are you interested in becoming a Governor? Please email, Chairofgovernors@ojsgovernors.co.uk

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 the next stage of their 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 learns and flourishes, 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.

Mrs. Charlotte Kieran
Chair of Governors

Contact me on – Chairofgovernors@ojsgovernors.co.uk

