

Stanbridge Lower School



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A Report from John Symonds - Chair of Governors

As governors we have a duty of care to all the children who attend Stanbridge which we all execute with a sense of pride. It is important to remember our governors are all volunteers and give up their time offering both experience and advice to the school. I have the pleasure as Chair of Governors to thank them all for their hard work including you as parents for your support. Most importantly I have to thank Miss Godwin and her staff for the dedication to the children and school. Last year I walked around the school with Miss Godwin, what struck me most about our school was one young student came past us skipping happily down the corridor, this really shows what a happy and secure school we have. I am personally very proud to be Chair of Governors at Stanbridge so with some pride I now submit our Governors Report detailing progress across 2016/17.

Curriculum

- > Over the past year Mrs Forbes, the new Subject Leader for Literacy has reviewed how we teach spelling and homework, introducing the new phonics homework book for children in KS1. Termly grammar tests have been introduced to assess the children's understanding of this. Reading books have been sorted through and we have started to purchase new reading books for the children both to take home and to read in their classrooms. Phonic lessons were revised to ensure the children are being taught phonics regularly throughout the day to gain greater progress in this area.
- > Mr Wilkins, the Maths Subject Leader has worked with members of the LC2 (schools in Leighton Buzzard) and formulated a new Calculation Policy for schools across Leighton Buzzard to use. This means there is more continuity between lower, middle and upper schools. Staff have been fully trained in this policy and this will shortly be available to view on the school website. We hope this will help parents in supporting their children with calculations at home.
- > Reflective Learners: The staff have continued to work with the children encouraging them to reflect on their own learning. Younger children are encouraged to do this verbally and older children are encouraged, with the support of their teachers, to reflect on what went well (www) and how a piece of work could be even better if (ebi). This is linked to the learning objective for the lesson. This approach encourages the children to take ownership of their points for development as well as celebrating their achievements. This has proved to have a big impact on children's learning.



"We believe in our children"



- > We continue to use our Sports Premium funding to buy back into the LC2 Sport's Partnership and I would like to congratulate Miss Waller for ensuring competitions across the ages are well represented. We know the children really enjoy taking part in the competitions and festivals across the year. Once again we have achieved the Gold Sport's Mark which is proudly displayed in school. Further details of how this funding is spent and the impact of the funding can be found on the school website at www.stanbridge.beds.sch.uk.
- > The PTFA raised funds to purchase a mini bus which they officially handed over to the Governing Body to manage. We have allocated funds to the donation made by the PTFA to ensure the mini bus is fully serviced, maintained and insured. I am sure you will join me in saying a big THANK YOU to the PTFA for all their efforts fundraising for the bus.
- > Cooking: We continue to employ a cookery teacher for Years 3 and 4, as this is now part of the curriculum. These lessons take part in the spring term and we use Pupil Premium funding to support the development of these essential skills. The Food for Life programme is followed and this is available to view on our website at www.stanbridge.beds.sch.uk. Our school meals provider offers Big Cook, Little Cook lessons to the children in Year 2 and Reception and Year 1 cook at different points across the year with their class teacher.

Premises

- > Over the summer months we have had the internal corridors painted and this has had a good impact on the other appearance of our school and it now looks fresh and bright.
- > Further markings have been put down in the school playground for the children to play on
- > The PTFA are currently working with the Governing Body to regenerate our environmental area.
- > The Governing Body will be changing some of the old internal doors and fitting a new intruder alarm over the next couple of months.

Staffing

- > Interventions for Children: We continue to recognise children need extra support in their learning whether it is to extend and challenge, or support those who need extra help. Interventions have been enhanced and extra staff have been employed to continue help and give support to individual children. Our team of dedicated and highly skilled LSA's support learning very well and a percentage of our Pupil Premium funding is spent within this area.

Governance

- > We were extremely proud that following our recent OFSTED inspection Stanbridge continues to be a good school. The Governors, Head Teacher and staff work tirelessly to ensure the children of Stanbridge Lower receive a very good education and are offered a wide variety of enrichment activities which make school life interesting and fun.
- > The Governors and staff have started to action points for development from our last OFSTED report and Miss Godwin will be providing staff with more pertinent progress data so that Governors can broaden their strategic challenge.
- > Thank you for all completing the Annual Questionnaire that was sent out in June. The Governors and Miss Godwin have reviewed these questionnaires and overall these are very positive with parent's being very happy with the education their children receive at Stanbridge. As usual we are happy to work on any points for development that parent's feel could be improved and Miss Godwin will summarise both positive and points for development in a separate newsletter.

John Symonds



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