

Stanbridge Lower School



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A Report from John Symonds - Chair of Governors

Another year has passed and we see ourselves moving forward. You can see from the Chairs report many exciting things have been achieved and this is due to the hard working and committed staff. The Governors also play an important part helping with the smooth running of the school. I have always been drawn to Stanbridge Lower and enjoy giving my time to the Governing Body but as with most things time does move on. I am sad to say that this will be my last year as Chair of Governors; I have decided to resign from the Board of Governors due to my Family and I moving away from Bedfordshire. I have seen many changes over my time as Chair. I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the governors past and present who I have had the pleasure to work with but particularly to Miss Godwin and all the Staff. I am personally very proud to have been Chair of Governors at Stanbridge so with a great amount of pride I now submit our Governors Report detailing progress across 2018/19.

Curriculum

- > Progress across the school is good, especially when the children's attendance is good. We have a plan in place to develop the children's attainment in the Year 1 Phonic Screening Test and urge parents to complete the phonics homework with children each week, as this supports their learning in school and helps them to achieve a pass in the test.
- > The Early Years Curriculum continues to prepare children for their school journey by building on the prime skills of personal, social and emotional learning, the development of communication and language and a child's physical development, along with four specific areas of learning: literacy; mathematics; expressive arts and design; and understanding the world. We believe good learning means giving young children chances to play and explore, where children investigate and experience things and are willing to have a go.
- > The RE curriculum has been revised and updated following the Agreed Syllabus for RE. The children are enjoying the new syllabus which focuses on Christianity and the other world religions. The place of Religious Education in the lives of children and young people keeps changing. Some things are constant and every person, growing up, finds their own values and beliefs by which to live. The tensions of our differences are creative and fascinating for most of us, but occasionally they cause conflict. The place of religion in the modern world can be challenging. It is vital for our schools to help children and young people to develop their own ideas and ways of living, to learn to be reasonable about belief and religions and to be respectful to those who see the world differently.



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- > Homework was revised for the Years 3 and 4 to focus less on testing and more on using and applying spelling patterns to writing. This has meant more children are remembering the patterns in their writing.
- > The children are being encouraged to self assess as they move up the school. They are now more able to use their targets to assess what to do next to improve their work, e.g. writing. You will see in the children's books at parents evening where the children have highlighted certain pieces of work in pink and green. Pink meaning what they have done well and green meaning areas which need to be improved. This is having a good impact on writing.
- > Talk for writing was introduced into the school, where children practice, and rehearse the language and punctuation found in a text and then write their own version using and applying the language and punctuation they have rehearsed. This also is having a good impact on the development of writing.
- > The Pegasus Award was a huge success this year. The children in Year 3 and 4 worked hard across the year to reach their targets and were all awarded their medals. Pegasus can remove barriers to learning and offer opportunities to people regardless of their age and ability. It provides a vehicle through which teachers, can reward effort and attainment in line with existing target-setting approaches. The children create their own targets to work towards and demonstrate their ability to persevere at a task, seeing it through to completion. This is a brilliant award for children to demonstrate their commitment towards learning, progressing and achieving and enables the children to become independent, good learners and build on their successes. Pegasus will continue at Stanbridge as we believe it really enhances their learning experiences. We the only school in Leighton Buzzard to offer this exciting opportunity for children.
- > We have replaced all the laptops which children use to complete their ICT lessons. These are now up to date and fit for purpose.
- > The PTFA reformed and have run a range of successful events for the children. They have more planned across the year and the money raised has help to fund coaches for school trips which benefits all the children. They also have exciting plans for the development of the environmental garden.
- > Curriculum activities such as cooking, ukulele lessons, singing lessons etc. have continued to be a priority when we set the budget as these activities are provided by specialist teachers and have a big impact on the skills we can teach children as well as contributing to their enjoyment and enrichment of the school curriculum

Premises

- > Over the summer months we have had lots of maintenance work done in school as well as a classroom being painted as part of our redecoration plan for the school. The classroom now looks fresh and bright.
- > A new entry system has been installed in school to ensure all visitors are signed in and read safeguarding information before entering the premises.
- > We were successful in our application for a grant and received £9000. A new bike shed is due to be sited at the front of school in the playground and new dining room furniture has been ordered.

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. 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 continue to have a strong and active governing body who have a range of skills to support the strategic direction of the school. All governors continue to work hard to support and develop the education offered at our growing school.



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- > Governors work closely with the Head teacher to develop the curriculum, monitor our statutory duties and keep the attainment and progress of the children as best as it can possibly be.

John Symonds
Chair of Governors
September 2019



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