

# Swavesey Primary School



Dear Parents, Guardians and Carers,

As we come to the end of the current academic year, I'm proud to reflect on the achievements made across the school this year. Reading through the following reports from our two committee Chairs clearly shows the challenges the school has faced, the hard work demonstrated by each and every member of the school staffing team, but most importantly it paints a picture of successes and achievements that deserve to be recognised and celebrated.

After a very challenging couple of years, it is great to see a return to lots of pre-pandemic events. The much-loved sports day on the field was, as always, a fantastically organised day and fun for both the



children and spectators. School play performances have returned demonstrating the confidence, hard work and creativity of the children – and of the colleagues who support and manage these performances. The return of fun and important fundraising events such as the PTA annual school fete, which is not only looked forward to by the children and the community alike, but also helps to raise funds for the school - something that we are so grateful to the PTA for. And, not forgetting the additional celebrations and fun that was had during the fabulous whole school Queen's Platinum Jubilee street party.

Through excellent leadership and hard work the school is managing the post-pandemic recovery well. Whilst we continue to experience some disruption due to peaks in infection rates, the children and staff have worked extremely well to close gaps in learning. The school has received money from the government for tutoring and is using this efficiently to fund group work to provide additional support for our children as part of closing the gap measures.

Swavesey Primary School continues to thrive and the good teaching, leadership, financial management and SEND provision mean that we remain a successful school where our children enjoy a healthy, challenging and broad experience at school. One of the most recent achievements of the school - and demonstrating the broad provision of education that is provided - is the achievement of Historic England's Heritage Schools Award.



Whilst the following reports provide much more detail, reflection on the year and recognition to those that help make the school a success, I want to take this opportunity to say a few words of thanks myself. Firstly, thank you to you; our parents and carers who have supported the school in so many different ways – through the encouragement of your children, attendance at school events and the support you provide to staff. Thank you to the PTA for continuing to find innovative and creative ways to fundraise and support the school. And finally, the most important thank you I would like to make is

to each and every member of staff in the school. Every person who works in the school makes a real contribution to the school experience and journey for our children - whether it be Mrs Norden as our Headteacher, our Teaching and TA staff, EY&P staff, the premises, finance and office teams, or one of our partners working in the school – you all come together as one team and I am extremely proud to be part of such an amazing school - it is your loyalty and dedication to your job that makes the school such a success.

We are very sad to say goodbye to some Governors as they approach the end of their governor term with us. Whilst I have tried hard not to single out individuals in this report, I must say a massive thank you to two of our Governors. Firstly, Alison Fox who most recently has been our chair of CLA Committee. Whilst we know that Rachel Hallam will expertly take over from Alison as Chair, we will greatly miss Alison and the dedication and hard work she has contributed as a governor over the years. Secondly, we are sad to say goodbye to Andrew Baker from our governing body. Andrew is one of the schools longest serving governors, having been involved in a huge amount of work and support over the years from Headteacher recruitment, to Chair of the FGB. In fact, it was Andrew's enthusiasm for the role that persuaded me to join as a governor myself, a decision I am very pleased I made. A heartfelt thank you to Alison and Andrew, and to all of our governors – past and present for your support and hard work over the course of this year.

And finally, goodbye to the year 6 children who are leaving us to continue their school journey at other schools - we wish you all the very best. And of course, a goodbye to many parents who leave us as their children's time at Swavesey Primary Schools comes to an end.

I wish each and every one of you a happy, restful and fun summer.

**Lynsey Fulcher**

Chair of Governors, on behalf of the Full Governing Body

*For those parents who are new into the school, or may be unaware of the governing body structure, the Full Governing Body (FGB) is organised into two committees - the Curriculum, Learning and Achievements (CLA) and Resources Committee. The following reports provided by Catherine Cannon, Chair of the Resources Committee and Alison Fox, the current chair of CLA Committee provide a much more detailed overview of how our committee system supports and guides the school, through the achievement of our objectives as governors and in line with the schools own development plan. We always welcome interest from anyone who would like to become a school governor in the future. Alternately we are available should you have any feedback or interest in any of the items mentioned in these reports. More information can be found on the school website at: [Governors - Swavesey Primary School](#)*

## Resources Committee Annual Report 2022

Another crazy long school year for all!

This is my first year as Resources Chair since being appointed last year and one that has been one of the most testing years in our lifetime. Last year saw us all adapting and juggling both work and remote learning. This year there was an expectation that school would get back to some kind of normality, however Covid had other ideas and has continued to make an impact, exacerbated further by resourcing challenges. Despite this our school has remained open and it is a testament to Mrs. Norden and her staff that this has been achieved.

As Governors, we have continued to see the effort and hard work that each and every staff member has given to keep the school operational under such extreme conditions. Resourcing this year has proved challenging and as a result staff have been required to step in and go above and beyond their normal daily tasks. These actions have ensured that the school has continued to provide a safe, stimulating and healthy environment for our children to develop and learn. My admiration and appreciation for our teachers and all support staff continues to grow.

Our Governor meetings have continued to be on Zoom, however our last meeting of the year was face to face and the first one since Covid, and before I became a Governor. It was so nice to finally see the staff and all my fellow Governors in the same room, rather than on my computer screen. Our meetings have continued to meet at least twice a term to consider the financial, premises, health and safety, safeguarding and personnel aspects of the school's operations and development. A summary of our current objectives as a committee are:

**Finance:** Provide support and challenge to the Head teacher and Schools Business Manager in all areas relating to financial governance during the year.

**Personnel:** Work with the Head teacher to ensure that the schools people resources are best utilised. In the short-term ensuring these are aligned to the Schools Development Plan, and longer-term considering options such as the potential sharing of resource or academisation.

**Premises:** To provide overview and guidance on all technical and hard services.

**Health and Safety:** To provide overview and checks to ensure all H&S matters conform to legislation and guidance, and post Covid safe practices.

The Committee has been embedding newly appointed Governors as well as welcoming our new Clerk, Katie, who has proved to be invaluable, and provides ongoing support to both Resources and the full governing body committees. Governor attendance at committee meetings has remained high and our enthusiastic committee has continued to develop, Gaining a greater understanding and appreciation of how the school development plan is implemented. This has allowed the Committee to lay the knowledge foundations that will enable us to continually review, challenge and support the school in the years to come. We always welcome feedback and questions from parents so please do contact any of us if you have any questions or issues relating to our objectives that you would like us to consider.

Governors receive an update on the school's financial situation at every meeting. Schools budgets are notoriously stretched so juggling the need to balance the school's budget against investing in the school to keep it developing and progressing is a particularly important but increasingly difficult task. Mrs. Whistler continues to provide us with her prudent budget management skills keeping the budget on track and providing transparency with the whole budget process – something that we as a committee continue to be very thankful for.

Increasing financial challenges, means there is a greater need to raise additional funding for the school. A particular thanks to the PTA this year who have continued to have a difficult year but have finally seen some activities and events back on our calendar! Events such as bonfire night and the Summer Fete, not to mention the well-attended School discos. It was so nice to be able to see the enjoyment from all those who attended as well as raising much needed money for the school that will benefit pupils for many years to come.

Over the past year we have supported the school with reviewing and updating many policies and risk assessments, as well as carrying out a compliant review of our website. As we continue make improvements to the school we welcome any feedback and ideas. As a result of feedback we have continued to use the gate at the rear of the school, enabling the free flow of traffic during drop off and pick up. Another change that has stayed is pupils coming into school in their PE kit ready for their lesson.

It has been a challenging year but we are proud of this year's achievements and the resilience demonstrated by staff and pupils especially considering it has been the first full school year since Covid and the reintroduction of SATs. Mrs. Norden, in particular, has again shown exceptional leadership and has been at the forefront of the continuous challenges that have occurred this year. Mrs. Norden and the senior leadership team have worked tirelessly throughout the year ensuring that all of our children have had all the necessary resources seeing staff rally together and offer to help wherever required. For many the summer holiday will be a very welcome and well-deserved break. Thank you.

We hope that September will continue to see pre-covid routines and practices establishing back as the norm. We will continue to support the school to enable this to be achieved, but as governors we feel that this last year has again reaffirmed our confidence that the school's leadership are all working towards a clear vision that ensures our school continues to develop and provide a safe, stimulating and healthy environment that develops our children to be happy, healthy, confident and independent lifelong learners.

We wish all staff, parents and pupils a safe, restful and enjoyable summer break.

***Catherine Cannon***

Chair of the Resources Committee. On behalf of the Resources Committee

## **The Curriculum, Learning and Achievement Committee Annual Report 2022**

After such a strong start to the academic year in terms of attendance and catching up with being back in school and supporting children's learning post-pandemic, the second half of this academic year has again proved challenging in terms of staff and pupil illness and hence absence. A huge thanks to the staff who have rallied round to ensure that all classes have been covered at all times in ways which have allowed the planned activities to be enjoyed by children across the curriculum. They have shown amazing flexibility and collaboration with one another to continue to offer an engaging experience for Swavesey Primary School children. This has been possible through inspirational leadership by Mrs Norden and the senior leadership team, who have negotiated with staff as to the best solutions for staffing and taken on teaching themselves.

The Curriculum, Learning and Achievement (CLA) committee have been able to keep in touch with the school throughout the academic year through our committee meetings and through establishing a range of staff-governor links for all subject areas. This extends how we had been working to involve governors across the full governing body in meeting staff and hearing about children's progress. We have really appreciated hearing from subject leads in our meetings and seeing their summaries of policy, practice and evaluation, sharing examples of activities and children's work. Subject leads are using discussions with their colleagues and children to help evaluate provision in their subject area, which they are using to feed into plans for next year. We are so lucky to have such passionate and expert staff across the breadth of the curriculum, supporting one another to bring the full range of subjects alive for children and support them in developing skills and knowledge relevant for the world they will be moving into as citizens.

### Well done and thank you

Congratulations to all the children who have taken externally assessed tests this year and taken these in their stride, as just another opportunity to show what they can do. The visitors to the school during this time were impressed with the children's attitude and sense of purpose. Thanks to all of you at home helping to keep children calm and ready to do their best at these times in particular.

We hope you have enjoyed supporting the children in all the events and activities beyond and within the curriculum that have involved you in looking out resources (costumes, materials) and ensuring the children had everything they needed for trips and external events. There has been such a wide range of opportunities to have new experiences and, in the case of sport, to compete with and against one another. The school continues to have a reputation for sporting success way beyond what would be expected for a school of this size.

### Overview of the year

We have been focusing on our support and awareness of all Foundation subjects, in addition to remaining in touch with the core areas of: English, Maths, Science, Early Years, Special Educational Needs and both Sports and Pupil Premium funded curriculum provision. In September we heard about English and Phonics, in November about Art, Design and Technology and Maths, in March about Computing, Science and Music, in May an update on Phonics, along with Physical Education and Religious Education and, most recently in July, about Personal, Social and Health Education, History and Geography. What has come through really strongly is the passion and expertise each and every of

the subject leads has brought to their roles, leading training for other staff, enhancing activities across the school in their subject and ensuring that there is clear monitoring of pupil progress in each subject.

In **English** both reading and writing have been focuses for the children. The school met to review the impact of COVID on reading skills in February and additional interventions were woven into all classes to ensure all children had opportunities not only to read for pleasure but also to work on the skills needed for their level. Mrs Norden has really enjoyed going into all classes to hear children read and the school are trying to find volunteers to get back to pre-COVID levels of support for listening to reading and discussing books on a 1:1 basis in school time. Aspects of writing have been identified as particularly needing support post lockdown and staff are working with whole classes, small groups and 1 to 1 to provide opportunities for and advice about how to develop the full range of age-appropriate writing skills.

It has been another year of hard work in **Mathematics** across Swavesey Primary as evidenced by both end of Key Stage 1 and 2 test results being above the national average. Our main focus as a school this year in maths has been to *'build resilience and resourcefulness as mathematicians'* as this was identified as an area in need of some improvement across the school. Activities have taken place across the year which were specifically aimed at prompting these skills and to demonstrate their importance. This is a more challenging aim to judge the success of as it cannot be demonstrated through data. However, when surveyed at the end of the year all phases agreed that there had been a general trend of improved resilience and resourcefulness in maths; leading to children being more willing to engage in more open-ended and challenging activities. There is of course still work to do in this area, but it has benefited the school to have this as a focus this year.

In **Science** there has been a focus on teachers capturing what children have learnt about Science from the activities they have been engaged in, whether this is verbally, written or in other forms. They have effectively been monitoring this using our assessment system BROMCOM in ways which is now being shared with other subjects not yet in this system. There is lots to celebrate in regard to our science teaching and learning. The children are clearly engaged in their learning of science, there are exciting and varied lessons planned and taught and the use of relevant and specific scientific vocabulary is evident throughout the school. The school celebrated British Science Week this year which involved lots of work and exploration around the theme of 'growth'. The subject lead invited in speakers from different scientific careers – and they hope that this may have inspired some engineers and scientists of the future! The Eco Committee has started to meet again and the school have begun a project with the local community to encourage more wildlife into our gardens.

In **Early Years**, staff successfully carried out the new Reception Baseline Assessments (RBA) in the autumn term which gave an insight into children's starting points, allowing staff to plan according to their needs. Staff have fully embedded the intentions of the new Early Years Framework that became statutory in September 2021 by utilising every moment with the children, adapting and changing provision regularly to suit the needs of learners and assessing children's end of year attainment against the new Early Learning Goals (ELGs). This has seen developments of provision in the outside space which has allowed children exciting opportunities to deepen their learning in the natural environment.

In our support of Special Educational Needs we are thrilled to have a new Co-ordinator taking over the role in September, Mrs McAuley, who will continue to be supported by Mrs Crossman in the first year.

We continue to monitor the effective use of funds to best support what is termed Quality First teaching, drawing on catch up funding post pandemic and Pupil Premium funding, to ensure it is targeting as many children as can benefit from additional interventions. Provision from tutors, teaching assistants and teachers has carefully organised in small groups and we know the school take great care that this does not overly impact on the children's opportunities to engage in the rest of the curriculum. You might like to know that Sports Premium funding has been used to purchase; sets of goals, a sports equipment shed, equipment for use in the snug and table tennis equipment for wet play.

### Looking forward

For 2022-2023 we look forward to being able to talk with subject leads about how children have been progressing in their subject areas and how they have been monitoring this using the BROMCOM assessment platform. We look forward to hearing more about the exciting activities staff have planned for each subject and across subjects. We know this will continue to develop and apply core literacy and numeracy skills through contexts of art, design, science, history, geography, PSHE, RE, music, modern languages and computing, as well as nurture the children's thirst for knowledge, skills in learning and self-confidence. We look forward to hearing what the children have to tell us about their experiences and hear about their growing confidence, competences and enthusiasm for learning.

With best wishes to all the school's families as we move into the summer break and end of the academic year

### **Alison Fox**

Chair of the CLA committee. On behalf of; Andrew Baker, Rachel Hallam, Claire Daniel and Anna-Claire Norden