



Holywell Primary School

Headteacher & Governors' Report for 2018 - 2019 & End of Year Accounts

The Governing Body is pleased to present its annual report to parents and carers for the year 2018 - 19.

Throughout this past year, the school has continued to focus on the key priorities of improving the outcomes for our pupils and ensuring that we continue to upgrade our resources and the school environment against a background of significant financial constraints.

As reported last year, due to falling pupil numbers entering the school as a result of a surplus of school places in this part of Watford, we have started to reduce the number of classes per year from three to two. Following consultation, the Local Authority has now confirmed that from September 2020 we will move to a 2-form entry school, reducing our admission number from 90 to 60 pupils. This confirmation will enable the school to manage its budget and staffing with greater certainty. In the coming year only Year 6 will retain three classes.

The Governing Body is responsible for approving the school's annual budget and ensuring the budget is well managed through regular reports from the school Bursar. In the current financial climate, we have an emphasis on reviewing all external contracts for potential savings when they are due for renewal. As an example, we are now saving £8000 per annum on our reprographics contract. In addition, we continue to look for all opportunities to generate additional income by letting the school facilities and premises.

As a result of careful management of the budget, the school has sufficient funding for the coming year, but the picture is far more uncertain as we look ahead.

A summary of the 2018 - 2019 end of year accounts is set out at the end of this report.

During the past year two new Parent Governors have joined the Governing Body, so that we now have a full complement of four Parent Governors playing an important role in support of the school. All governors take on specific responsibilities and there is a particular focus on Safeguarding and Equality/Inclusion where the governors have a statutory responsibility to ensure the compliance of the school. To achieve this, the governors keep the school's policies under review and receive regular reports from the Head to ensure that there are adequate arrangements in place. Further information about the Governing Body can be found on the school website.

Although there have been limited funds available to upgrade the school environment and resources, some important improvements have been made. A nurture space has been created behind the Olympic Hall to provide ongoing support to pupils where there have been behaviour issues and in the short time this has been in place it has proved to be a valuable new resource. Repairs have been carried out to the Infant Hall roof which will hopefully avoid the need for a major replacement. New electronic whiteboards have been installed in eight classrooms and we have subscribed to Purple Mash, a new computing scheme that can be used across the curriculum and which also allows pupils to access their homework at home.

ICT is an essential, but expensive, area of expenditure and we will continue to prioritise ICT resourcing as far as funding will permit. So next year we plan to purchase another eight electronic whiteboards and replace the PCs in a number of classrooms. We will also begin to replace our ageing laptops with Chromebooks, a less expensive solution, commencing with 32 Chromebooks for Year 6. These will be rolled out into other Year Groups in subsequent years. Regarding the school's facilities, we are seeking quotations to convert the school library into an intervention space. Finally, the school playing field is currently in an unsafe condition, so in the coming year we will undertake improvement works utilising a £20,000 grant from the Local Authority. This will enable us to use the field for our 'Daily Mile' and for a variety of sporting activities.

In March, the school took part in a Local Authority project, 'Closing the Gap', looking at our provision for disadvantaged children for whom we receive additional funding in the form of the Pupil Premium Grant (PPG). The evaluation was supportive of the school's approach, noting: 'the school has a clear rationale for their PPG strategy, with carefully targeted activities and provision the provision ensures a wealth of enrichment opportunities, including visitors and trips to increase the cultural capital of disadvantaged pupils'. Several recommendations were made which will further improve our provision and these will be implemented in the coming year.

In May we also collaborated in a two-day pilot Ofsted inspection for the new Ofsted framework, which will come into force this coming September. The new framework will have an emphasis on the breadth of the curriculum and the quality of education and will place less emphasis on pure outcomes. This was a tough two days for the staff, putting the school under close scrutiny and although there was no formal judgement made, it provided a valuable opportunity for the school to understand how it needs to continue to adapt and develop.

As mentioned last year we have taken the preparation of school dinners in-house. This is proving a great success as it is more cost effective and, in addition, we have much more flexibility in the meals we provide, the overall quality of meals has improved and we are also able to offer pupils a much wider choice with the provision of a meat, halal, vegetarian, and jacket potato options each day. The salad bar and the deserts are also very popular with all pupils. As a result of these changes, we are seeing an increase in the number of pupils opting for school meals.

We will start to review our curriculum from September by looking at the suitability of our current provision. Over the past few years with the use of the Power of Reading scheme we have enhanced links especially with English. In our review we will make these links between subjects more discreet to ensure that there is clear progression in pupils learning from the Early Year Foundation Stage up to the end of Year 6. We have continued our 'Take on book' theme and had great success with books such as *The Black Book of Colours* and *Wolves in the Walls* by Neil Gaiman. In addition to this, pupils have also looked at portraits by the well-known English artist L.S. Lowry. They have written about the relevance to them though a unit of work called, 'Through my Window' where they describe what they see outside their house window.

Our greatest success in terms of curriculum is no doubt the work completed around Spanish. The display of our heritage boxes at the Watford Family Research Centre and then Watford Museum, in addition to the fourteen pupils who were able to visit Spain, has laid the foundation for much more outstanding work around this area next year. In recognition of this, the school has been awarded a Heritage School Award by Historic England and we are looking forward to continuing this work through our informal link with Bromet, Oxhey Wood and Park Gate Junior schools. We will also be sending a group of pupils to Tenerife next year and will be hosting 60 pupils from primary schools in Tenerife and Cordoba.

We are pleased to report that during the year we reached our target of 100% of teaching quality in the school assessed as good or outstanding. This is an important milestone, but we will continue to strive for all teaching to be outstanding. Our focus on teaching next year will be around the delivery of the foundation subjects in school. This will go hand in hand with our review of the curriculum. We are also happy to have been awarded a Silver Award following our School Games Mark application, which recognises the continual improvements we are making around healthy living and Physical Education at Holywell.

We are continuing to offer a range of morning and afternoon clubs and will explore with parents the potential value of having a full breakfast club from September onwards.

Looking at pupil outcomes, the most significant achievement this year has been the improvement in the percentage of pupils who at the end of Year 6 have achieved a combined age related score in Reading, Writing and Maths. This figure has increased significantly from 44% up to 56%, which puts us within 9% of pupils nationally. This is due primarily to progress made in Mathematics where 72% of pupils have reached age related expectation compared to 51% last year. The focus on Mathematics this year across the school has paid dividends with improvements seen in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2.

The percentage of pupils reaching above age related expectation in Maths has also increased. The percentage of pupils reaching a good level of development in Reception has improved for a third successive year where 74% of pupils have reached this benchmark. Phonics results in Key Stage 1 remain broadly in line with national figures where the biggest improvement has been seen in Year 2. Pupils in Key Stage 1 have also shown improvements in Writing.

We continue to strive to improve outcomes for all our pupils whilst recognising there will always be areas highlighted for particular emphasis. Next year this will see a focus on the progress and achievement of higher achieving pupils and pupils entitled to receive pupil premier grant funding.

Once again we would like to express our gratitude and appreciation to all our staff for their hard work and dedication to the school and we are, as always, grateful for the continuing support of our parents and carers in helping to make this a safe, happy and improving school.

On behalf of the Governors of Holywell Primary School,



Irvin Needle
Chair of Governors



Coert van Straaten
Headteacher

July 2019

End of Year Accounts 2018 - 2019

Income

Revenue Income	2,380,592
Catering Income	29,515
Trips & Visits Income	22,465.00
Capital Income	29,620.00
Total Income	<u>2,462,192.00</u>

Expenditure

Budget area	Actual Spend
Staff & Staff Related	1,798,067.00
Admin & Professional Services	97,954.00
Catering & Hospitality	59,892.00
Department/Learning Resources	102,270.00
Trips/Visits/Swimming	28,163.00
Extended School Activities	28,373.00
ICT	40,553.00
Premises	218,305.00
Capital Expenditure	7,252.00
Total Expenditure	<u>2,380,829.00</u>

In Year Surplus	81,363.00
Reserves Brought Forward (01/04/2018)	197,376.00
Reserves Carried Forward (31/03/2019)	<u>278,739.00</u>