

CALLOWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Governor Report to Parents - Academic year 2018/19

It's been a very busy year for the Governors! I took on the role of Co-chair in September 2018 and we have had 2 new Governors join us and 2 leave. We have seen 12 new children start across the school who joined us from other schools in the area and from much further afield. Changing schools can be a very traumatic and challenging time for children and Callowell prides itself in welcoming and helping those children who have had a difficult time at previous schools for a variety of reasons. Please always come and talk to us if you feel your child needs to move schools, this can often be solved with a few simple ideas. It's important that children form long lasting relationships with their peers and tutors and throughout life. Moving does not always mend deeper problems.

SEND Callowell has a larger than average percentage of children with Special Educational Needs and this year has seen the welcome return of Mrs Vaughan from maternity leave as lead SEND co-ordinator. Mrs Vaughan will be dedicating her time to this role next year as she will not have a class teacher role but will be working across the school and with our Pupil Premium Governor to ensure the funding we receive is well used and the impact is shown.

Data headlines for July 2019 are below:

KS1 SATS Maths Reading Writing

% at or above 52% 83% 41%

% Greater Depth 14% 14% 7%

% at or above combined 38%

% Greater Depth combined 3%

KS2 SATS Reading GPaS Mathematics Writing

Av Scaled Score 108 109 108

% at or above 88% 92% 96% 80%

% Greater Depth 56% 44% 32% 12%

% at or above combined 80%

% Greater Depth combined 12%

Another set of fantastic results from year 6! Well done year 6 and all teachers and staff involved in their journey over several years.

Yr1 Phonics pass rate is 82.6%

EYFS Good Level of Development is 71%

OFSTED – we had our full inspection as you know, soon after Mrs Wall had to go on sick leave, (awful timing for an inspection!) Mr Bown, the teaching staff and Governors leaped into action with the help of Headteacher Mrs Edwards of Stonehouse Park Infants to ensure the inspection went smoothly. We were graded as a school that 'Requires Improvement' with relatively few key areas to focus on. We were informed that the school is high-end RI and that overall there needs to be consistency in order to prove that the School is Good. OFSTED will return within the next 2 years.

You will remember that only days after the inspection we had a letter from the Government (Department of Education) congratulating us on being in the top 3% of all primary schools in the country for Progress! This is a fantastic achievement and it is testament to the quality of education your children are getting at Callowell.

We appointed Mrs Edwards as Interim Headteacher in March 2019 but she had already spent lengthy visits supporting Mr Bown and staff since the inspection. Mrs Edwards is a friend of Mrs Wall and has been able to assess with fresh eyes, Callowell's Vision and Ethos, Behaviour, Attendance, Assessment processes, Staff roles and responsibilities and much more. She has been working in close partnership with Mr Bown and the Co-Chairs of Governors. This leadership team have addressed any barriers that might have been hindering progress, including a new staffing structure for September that has reduced individual classes being taught by more than 2 teachers per week. This is to ensure consistency and not an easy task with a stretched budget and with some staff who are only able to work part-time.

Attendance is at 95.1 %. Thank you for taking Attendance seriously. Your children's education is their right and we stress that any time out from school makes it incredibly hard for the child to catch up. We are pleased that our attendance record has improved and will continue to be monitored closely by Mr Bown.

EYFS - The nursery and pre-school is thriving and we have 26+ Reception children joining us in September. We have recently appointed Sonya Shiers as Pre-school manager. She is highly experienced in SEND provision and so we are able to address the needs of small children very early on, as we are now a school of 2-11 year olds! This provides a sound beginning for all children. Debbie Stopford will be deputy and her main role is to provide information about Pedagogy, working closely with Beccy Tempest as EYFS lead, new and exciting ways for the little ones to learn and prepare for school. Thanks to Jen Edmonds who has worked so hard over these last few years as manager, she has left to further her studies.

Looking forward - Mrs Wall is happily on the mend. She has been extremely brave and we are so pleased to have her back. Inevitably, a serious illness such as hers will have knocked the energy required to be a full-time head teacher and so she will have a phased return to work in September, overlapped by Mrs Edwards and Mr Bown.

Amazing that Callowell School is 50 years old! Let's look forward to the next 50 years. Some of the jobs your children will be doing haven't even been invented yet and so the developments in education change at a rapid pace. It is thrilling to be part of this vibrant school and encouraging that the next OFSTED focus on all schools will be on the Breadth of Curriculum and less on internal data analysis. I'm sure you will agree that your children are not just pieces of data and the variety of experiences they have at Callowell alongside the core subjects, provide all the preparation needed for the 11 year olds to leave Callowell well-rounded and ready for secondary school. In these challenging times faced with many cuts to education and the public sector, one area we all need to focus on, children, teachers, governors and parents alike is Resilience. How do we teach and role-model to our children to be resilient, to bounce back, to stay positive? This involves partnership and a team effort and Callowell school; its fantastic children, positive and forward-looking staff and governors and supportive parents have proven over these last few difficult months that this is entirely possible. Thank you for your continued support parents!

If you would like to be more involved in the strategic direction of the school and have some time to spare, please inquire about becoming a Parent Governor, we will hold a ballot in September. Also, you might know of a neighbour or grandparent, perhaps retired, who might be able to join us as a Co-opted Governor?

Most of all, have a great summer and we'll see you fresh faced in September!

Aimee Lax and Mike Anthony

Co-chairs of Governors – Callowell Primary School