



## MARLBOROUGH PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

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July 19, 2018

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **RE: End of Term Message from our Governors**

As we approach the end of another busy academic year, it is a time to reflect on our successes and consider our improvement priorities for 2018-19. I'm sure you will join us in congratulating all of our children on their achievements and especially in thanking our Year 6 pupils for being such a special part of Marlborough Primary School as they continue on their educational journey in their new secondary schools.

#### **Outcomes 2017-18**

The main focus of the Governing Board has been to continue our relentless focus on raising standards and monitor and evaluate the quality and breadth of our school curriculum. These aspirations have been particularly demanding given the increasing pressures arising from significant cuts to our school budget along with the current teacher recruitment crisis in the London area. We are therefore delighted to inform you that provisional results according to the Early Years Foundation Stage, Year 1 Phonics Screening and Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 SATs show that we have least maintained, and in some areas, improved on the excellent outcomes achieved in the previous academic year. This very positive performance has also been strongly reinforced by the independent termly review of standards at Marlborough along with our 'Peer Challenge' monitoring visits in November 2017 and May 2018. These processes validated the strengths of our school and confirmed that we now have even more excellent and outstanding features.

#### **Priorities and Challenges – Attendance and Punctuality**

The Board of Governors are now working closely with the School's Leadership Team to identify the improvement priorities for next year. Unfortunately, despite our best efforts the attendance and punctuality of our pupils is still causing serious concern. The children who are categorised as persistent non-attenders i.e. those pupils who have an absence rate of more than 10% is higher than the average for all schools nationally. This is compounded by the amount of families who still insist on taking unauthorised term time holidays along with a significant minority of parents/carers who still keep their children off school unnecessarily. The school's performance data shows a very strong link between high rates of attendance and accelerated progress in learning and low rates of attendance with much slower progress in learning. Although we would like to take this opportunity to thank the majority of our parents/carers who continue to support our school by ensuring that their children are punctual and attend regularly, we also need the ongoing support of all of our parents/carers to ensure this situation improves over the coming academic year.

#### **Other Highlights from the School Year**

The school has completed many successful visits including our Year 4 trip to Magdalen Farm in Devon and our Year 5 school journey to the PGL Activity Centre on the Isle of Wight. In addition, there have been many exciting workshops for children to support their learning in drama and history and a full programme of sporting activities.

Mrs Foote also led our special arts week during the summer term. This proved to be a real highlight for all the children. During our visits and from the feedback we have received it is clear that the behaviour of the children taking part in all these activities has been exemplary.

## Our new Leadership Structure and Links with Cavendish Primary School

To the mutual benefit to both schools, our links with Cavendish Primary School has strengthened over the past academic year. Examples of this positive partnership have included:

- Opportunities for school leaders to monitor, moderate and evaluate standards in both settings
- Staff at all levels, training together and sharing knowledge, understanding and expertise
- The exchange of ideas and experience in ways which has supported the development of various policies, procedures and communications including our respective School Emergency Plans and the implementation of the new General Data Protection Regulations and the processing of our performance data
- The alignment of our assessment and reporting systems

In light of these benefits and our objective to implement a new and permanent Leadership Structure which is best placed to face the challenges of a rapidly changing education system, we have completed a thorough and rigorous research, consultation and recruitment process. As a result of this, I am delighted to inform you of the following changes from September 2018:

- **Mr Murrell** will become the permanent **Executive Headteacher** of both Marlborough and Cavendish Primary School and will concentrate on long term plans and strategies and developing our partnerships with other schools
- **Mrs Gill** will be our new **Head of School** and will therefore take the lead in terms of ensuring the smooth day to day running of our school and in monitoring the quality of teaching and learning
- **Mrs McKeever** will be our **Deputy Head of School** and will continue to oversee our Inclusive School agenda and assessment processes
- **Miss Heap, Mrs Stringer, Miss Thethi and Mrs Young** will become our new **Assistant Heads of School** with responsibilities for leading the Early Years and Infant Phase, Junior Phase, the development of English and the development of mathematics respectively

We would like to congratulate all of our new appointees on their strong performances during the selection process and now look forward to their contributions towards school improvement. Further details about how our structure will work will be made available on our website.

### Contribution from Parents/Carers

We are very grateful to our PTA for organising a range of very successful fund raising and community events including our Spooky Disco, our new Christmas Fair, Royal Wedding tea party and Summer Fayre.

Our Year Reps continue to meet with members of the School Leadership Team each half-term and have been instrumental in generating ideas, making suggestions and raising any general issues and/or concerns.

In response to the feedback received we have:

- Improved the quality of school meals by bringing in a new contractor
- Introduced full-time places for children attending nursery
- Further improved our popular aftercare provision and holiday schemes
- Extended community usage of the school site in order to provide a range of services for under-fives and their families and to generate income for the school

Finally, the Governors would like to thank the children, staff and parents/carers for their considerable efforts and wish everyone a well-deserved and restful summer break.

Thank you for your continuing support,

Yours sincerely,



Ms N. Lewis (Chair of Governors)



Ms J. Heal (Vice Chair of Governors)