

Cubbington C of E Primary School



Dear Parent and Carers,

On behalf of the whole Governing Body I would like to welcome you to the new school year. In particular I would like to extend a warm welcome to all of you who are new to our school – I hope that your children are enjoying their new classes and that you are beginning to feel part of the whole school community.

The Governing Body met last week to complete our annual strategic review and so I would like to take this opportunity to share some of the key points from this meeting.

In general, I am again very pleased to report that there were some significant achievements in 2017/18 and strong evidence that staff at the school continue to produce some impressive outcomes. These outcomes are measured primarily by classroom data with a specific focus on the results at the end of Key Stage 1 (Years 1 & 2) and Key Stage 2 (Years 3-6). Governors spend a great deal of time scrutinising this data and 2017/18 has been an exceptional year – here are some of the highlights:

- In **Key Stage 1** across **all** the subject areas (reading, writing, maths, science and these subjects combined) the number of children achieving expected levels were **above the national average**. This was also true for the numbers working at “greater depth” or to a higher standard. In reading for example, our results show that **90% of children were at expected levels against a national average of 75%**.
- In Reception (Early Years and Foundation Stage) we saw an improvement in the numbers of children achieving a good level of development to 71% which was also above the national average.
- In **Key Stage 2** school data is based on the outcomes of the SATS tests. In 2017/18 **all results were above the national average** for both the numbers meeting expected standards and those working at greater depth. In some areas this was by as much as 20% - and in **reading 100% of the class met the expected standards, with 48% working at the higher level**, results which are truly outstanding.

It is worth repeating that these are fantastic outcomes and something that as Governors we were delighted to see and also very proud of because we are aware of the huge amount of work that goes on in school to achieve these standards. We know that we have outstanding teachers and it is really important that the data backs up our overall assessment.

Governors also reviewed progress against the priorities in the 2017/18 Learning Improvement Plan (LIP). In each area the range of initiatives and activities clearly explain what lies underneath the excellent outcomes and I have given only a very brief summary here:

LIP Priority 2017/18	Evidence of outcomes
Writing attainment and progress across the school	Writing attainment was above the national average in KS1 and KS2. Progress measures in writing improved but there is still a gap to those in reading and maths.
Review assessment systems	Governors approved a new assessment system called Pixl which will better support teacher evaluation throughout the school.
Girls achievement in KS2 at greater depth	Various initiatives to support girls were introduced such as the Elsa project and early indications are that the gap between girls and boys has been minimised.

Our outdoor learning areas	The new Adventure Playground was installed and in collaboration with the Schools Out Club progress has been made in moving towards Forest Schools accreditation.
Enhance Christian distinctiveness through building children's ownership of their own values	Governors have seen ongoing evidence that this remains a priority area. Such initiatives as Worship Wednesday and our Cross of Nails celebration firmly place our Christian values at the heart of the children's experience.

In addition to the evidence Governors have seen of significant developments in the past year we remain committed to ensuring that the school continues to improve. To do this we agreed with Mrs Jones the following LIP priorities for 2018/19:

- Raise the proportion of children working at greater depth in writing and maths
- Embed Pixl and new assessment system across the school
- Develop the wider curriculum to ensure that it is inspiring and fully owned by all stakeholders
- Ensure attendance levels are above the national average
- Develop Christian distinctiveness of the school.

Some of these priorities continue on from the work done in 2017/18 and ensure that we remain focused on these key areas.

Our final area of focus was to review the School Vision and Strategy document (attached separately to the email). We have drawn this together across the last year in order to give Governors, staff, parents and children an agreed understanding of what we want our school to look and feel like. Across the last year we noted some of the following progress against the five priorities:

Strategic Priority	Developments
Distinctive nurture approach.	The nurture group continues to play a vital role in the school and Governors are committed to explore ways we can invest further in this work.
Continually improve our curriculum...and consistently achieving results above the national average.	Staff have been through a detailed curriculum review and the results achieved in the previous year indicate that we have a strong foundation to achieve outcomes above the national average.
Embed outdoor learning within our curriculum	As per above there have been some important developments in outdoor learning and we will continue to support Mrs Jones in making progress in using our whole school environment.
Value parents as key partners in their children's learning and enable greater parental involvement in shaping the school's approach and priorities.	Our Parent Governors (Naomi Nicholson and Julie Jeary) have conducted a parental survey during the last year and presented the results to Governors. As a result we have identified some important methods for extending parental engagement with the school and this is something we will be aiming to work on more in the coming year.

Attain greater financial stability by achieving a balanced budget and, over time, use our resources to generate income to allow us to continually invest in improving the quality of our education.	Mrs Jones continues to exercise close control over the school budget and our forecast is that the school will be in a positive financial position over the next few years.
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On that last note it is important to recognise that the new National Funding Formula introduced by central government has had a positive impact on our projected financial position. Although this is a welcome development we are not immune from the financial challenges facing all schools and believe strongly that with rising costs school funding needs to remain a national priority.

I would like to finish by thanking everyone involved in the school – I only wish there were space to recognise all the individuals who put so much of their time and effort into making the school part of the wider community and, we believe, a very special place to come to school.

As Governors our overall assessment is that under the leadership of Mrs Jones Cubbington C of E primary school continues to go from strength to strength. We feel that we are in a place to see this continue over the next few years and we really look forward to working with you all as part of that journey.

Yours Sincerely,

Nick Wylie

Chair of Governors

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