

Braywood CE First School Governors' Report to Parents

2019-20

Aspire Learn Achieve, together



From little acorns, mighty oak trees grow, watered and nurtured by God

'For with God, nothing is impossible' Luke 1:37

Message from the Chair of Governors



“At Braywood our aspirations are for all children to become confident, secure and caring individuals who achieve personal success through a love of learning”

Dear Parents,

I do hope this letter finds your family in good health as we come to the end of an extraordinary school year. What a strange year it has been, I hope your child has enjoyed going back to school in the last few weeks after so many weeks at home and meeting their friends and teachers again. Mrs Calvert informs me everyone is glad to be back and the atmosphere in school is lovely and calm. As I said in my last letter, all Braywood’s parents and carers have done a fantastic job of home schooling throughout this difficult time when perhaps you have been working at home too. On behalf of the governors and myself, we thank you for all your hard work and commitment during this time. I also want to thank all the staff at Braywood for their commitment and hard work, especially Mrs Calvert who has, as always, risen to the challenge of leading the school in these difficult times.

At Easter, we said goodbye to Helen Wakeman after 18 years at Braywood, we wish her well in her new venture. Her PE skills will be missed, and she will be especially remembered for organising the house tournaments and fun run the children enjoyed so much. We are also saying goodbye to Tracy Cook who has been at Braywood for 23 years, we wish her lots of happy times in retirement. I have great pleasure in welcoming our new year 4 teacher, Miss Povey and wish her every success at Braywood. Mrs Calvert informs me she has made a great start and settled in already!!

As ever, the PTA have organised events and raised funds during the year and I thank the parents for supporting these events. Sally Hackett is our new PTA chair and has made an excellent start. Over the years they have raised funds for so many extras for our school of which we are very grateful.

Lastly, I would especially like to wish the children in year 4 all the very best at their new schools in September and I would like to wish everyone a happy, safe summer holiday.

Anne Farley
Chair of Governors

Our standards this year

Despite the pandemic this year the children have performed very well with their learning at home. We would have expected the vast majority of children to have secured their Phonics test in Year 1 and their SATs in Year 2. Across the school we assessed that 92% of pupils attained expected standards in Reading; 88% in Writing and 93% in Mathematics. This is obviously just an assessment based upon the children’s recent work and a more rigorous assessment of progress will happen when the children return back to school.

It does not matter though whether your child did brilliantly well at home and excelled working with their parents, whether they coped very well but found it a little hard or whether pupils really struggled. We aim to employ the funding from the Government’s ‘catch-up’ scheme to ensure all pupils are on target to maintain their potential best by the end of next year. Research tells us that having a one-to-one tutor e.g. their parents, can accelerate a child’s progress by 5 months over the year so we are very appreciative of all the help our families have given our school.

What are we trying to improve?

There are many priorities in our School Development Plan, but these are the key features.

- To build on our success with our Mathematics’ programme and prepare pupils for the new National Times Table Check by focusing on these number facts across the whole school.
- To apply the new changes in Relationship Education into our PSHE education and to share this with our parents.
- To create a curriculum vision policy alongside a review of our vision statement for the whole school alongside Governors and parents.

What have we achieved this year?

All classes have been on one trip except the Foundation class. We have had lots of visitors including:

PTA Events including Christmas Fair
Pantomime and Nativity

Dance Show Year 1



Whole School Forest Trips
Netball training & tournament
Harvest Festival in Church
Hatching chickens in EYFS
Visit from Father Christmas
Carols for Senior Citizens
Mums and Dads into School Day
Inter-school PE Tournament
Whole School Forest School Trips
Visit to Eton Natural History Museum
Y4 Trip to

Longridge

Carols for Senior Citizens
Visit from drama teacher for Literacy Day
Y1 visit to Milestones
Y2 visit to Reading Museum
Halloween Dress up Day



Y3 learning to play Steel Drums
Remembrance Service with special visitor
Trip to All Saints Church
PTA Children in Need Cake Sale
Eco Club and Stitch -off fortnight
Christmas parties
Visit to Foxley Grove



Family Assemblies
Piano Concerts
Y3 Athletics Coaching
Rock Steady Concerts
Entrepreneurial Day with parents
Y4 'Master Chef & Fiver' challenge
Maths Day with whole school challenges
Windsor Sport Partnership PE training
Y3 trip to Ufton Court
Christingle Service



A variety of tournaments

Berkshire Maestros working with Year 3 on steel drums
Whole school Pupil Parliament Days
PTA Cinema Day

Of all these activities, including daily online lessons have contributed to the breadth of our curriculum offer.

What have been our successes?

This year our main achievements were to finalise changes to the curriculum and enhance the children's educational experiences further including Entrepreneurial Day and Relationship Education. We managed to provide daily online home activities which reflected the curriculum they would have received at school throughout the pandemic together with some personal contact time. It was a real achievement to get almost 80% of our children back into school for the last few weeks of term so they could meet their friends and get back into some form of a learning routine.




Who are the Governors?

The Governors are a long serving group of people who are committed to the success of our school. There are a wide variety of skills on our Governing Body from a range of sources; some are local businesses, some parents, some representing our Christian bias and some are educationists. We are the school's 'critical friend'.

For more informative see our page on the website http://www.braywoodschool.co.uk/web/our_governors__1/232576

How do our governors promote school improvement this year?

The Governors work in collaboration with the Headteacher and staff, creating a closely balanced partnership to ensure that the school is run effectively. Our aim is to ensure that we provide the very best education possible.



Our staff and governors are a strong team who meet or visit school regularly to refine our improvement plan; challenge staff and ensure that our learning environment is safe and non-discriminatory. Each governor together with an associated teacher leads in one or two subject areas. The Governing Body monitors school improvement priorities through meetings, lesson visits, work analysis, policies and procedures and the financial scrutiny.

How are we working with parents?

The school and our governors value the contribution of parents, whether it is the help you give your child with their learning, the support you give the school by attending events or helping your child attend trips or events and the support you offer out PTA.

This year our PTA under Sally Hackett's leadership and her team have been fantastic, and the money raised has gone towards new Gymnastics equipment in the hall. The recent pandemic has put a halt to many of the regular fundraising events which we hope will be resurrected next year. We are very fortunate to have such committed parents.

The governors would like to wish everyone a lovely summer break and look forward to working with you all in the new academic year.



Chair of Governors
Mrs Anne Farley