Leigh Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all well and looking forward to what will hopefully be a glorious Summer. When I look back to life during Covid, it feels like yesterday and yet another age at the same time. The last newsletter piece from the Governors was written when we were very much in the thick of the pandemic with all the challenges that it entailed for the school and our community.

Fast forward to today and we are delighted to have all our staff and pupils back where they belong, in school, and hugely proud of the progress they have all made.

Our headteacher, Mrs. Halfhide, has made a fantastic impact in her first 20 months in role, overseeing a number of significant projects to improve the wellbeing and educational outcomes for all Leigh pupils. We have a new Deputy Head in Mrs. Shobbrook and new members of staff joining our loyal and dedicated team. They are, alongside the Governing Body, fully aligned behind a clear and ambitious school development plan. We as governors are confident that this plan, and these changes are the right ones, and that they are addressing the development areas identified in the September 2021 Ofsted report. While it was difficult at the time, the Requires Improvement ruling gave us the impetus to have a deep review of the quality of education and put in place strategies for improvement.

The governing body of Leigh supports Mrs. Halfhide and her team with developing and implementing these strategies. We are an elected body comprising parents, staff, community leaders and specialists who scrutinise the leadership of the school and make sure that there are plans in place to move the school forward. Importantly, we hold the leadership team to account for delivering the plan and have a range of backgrounds to effectively challenge and build.

So many positive actions have taken place; parents and carers should be assured that we are making progress towards a Good rating.

We have invested in well-established schemes in most subjects to ensure consistency of teaching and learning and are now seeing pleasing advances in the attainment and progress of pupils. School development in the Quality of Education has been rapid and highly impactful for all children with the implementation of Little Wandle phonics scheme, knowledge rich ambitious schemes across the wider curriculum and developments in Mastery in mathematics. Most importantly reading has become the heart of the school across the entire curriculum.

Our SEN offer has evolved and we are rightfully earning a reputation locally for being a centre of excellence when it comes to supporting children with these needs. Our safeguarding measures are strong with staff continually being trained.

But it's not only school development and quality of education that occupies the team. There have been many great initiatives and events over the past year! Here are some of the ones that stand out for me that demonstrate how committed the school is to developing the whole child:

- The Votes4 Schools initiative where pupils discuss a topical issue and then vote via a platform every week. I noted that 65% of our pupils think everyone should be able to vote from the age of 16! Judging by accounts of how issues are debated energetically in class, I think I'd go along with that!

- The Fantastic Fred visit on World Mental Health Day. It is so important that our pupils learn from an early age that mental health is as important as physical health and that talking about issues is a sign of strength.

- The adoption of Marvellous Me. I know many of you really enjoy seeing the recognition your child gets and it just amplifies the positivity!

- The way the Zones of Regulation have been embedded in the school and how pupils are using this to understand their emotions and how to be sensitive to others.

- The topics that are discussed during assembly to make sure our children grow up to be critical thinkers who care about the world they live in.

There are also some exciting plans to improve the school premises. Planning is underway to convert part of Jessica's Hall into a kitchen allowing us to finally change caterers! The Forest School area is undergoing a facelift to build on the success of Mrs. Murray's classes. Of course, pupils are already enjoying the improved playground and it is good to have better security now with the addition of the new gates

For more details on all aspects of school development please go to
https://www.leighprimaryschool.com/School-Development/

I would like to thank Mrs. Halfhide, the teachers and all members of staff for putting their heart and soul into their work every day. As governors, we are really pleased with what has been achieved so far and are excited about what we can achieve in the future. If you are interested in becoming a governor yourself, please do not hesitate to contact me via the school office.

With best wishes

Rahim Rajan, Chair of Governors