

Governor Report

July 2022



Dear Parents and Carers,

We are almost at the end of the academic year, and on behalf of the Governing Board, I would like to thank you for your continued support of the school. As most of you will know the Monkleigh School family is a close-knit community working alongside parents/carers, FOMs, teachers and staff, and it's been great to see how much we have achieved together in our first full normal year following nearly two years of disruption.

As a quick reminder, the role of the Governing Board is to ensure high standards continue to exist at our wonderful school. Governors are not responsible for the day-to-day running of the school, but to support, encourage and challenge the school in all it does, so that every child in our care receives the best possible education. Our role is a strategic one, and we meet usually every month to discuss and agree the key ambitions for the school, review the educational performance of pupils, plus ensure the money we have available is well spent.

Moving forwards, we will send you an update from the Governing Board at the end of each term, in order for you to hear from us on some of the achievements that have been delivered over the previous few months, plus highlight the upcoming plans we have in the pipeline to continually improve the educational standards and the lives of all our staff and pupils. We have worked closely with Mrs Reeves and the Teaching Staff to ensure that the key strategic aims for the school are closely matched to what is happening on a day to day level, from Early Years Foundation Unit right through to Year 6, be that in the classroom, play areas, sports field or further afield.

We've now been working in this way for over six months and the impact on the school is already significant. There are 4 main areas to the School's Development Plan and the Governing Board have specific responsibilities to ensure that they are all being delivered, covering the Quality of Education, Behaviours + Attitudes, Personal Development and Leadership + Management.

The full details of these will be available from when you all return in September, but in the meantime, here's some of the brilliant things that the teaching staff and pupils have achieved this year:

- Excellent results at Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 across maths, reading and writing
- Two very successful trips – to Skern Lodge in February followed by our first ever residential trip to London in the Spring
- Platinum Award for Sports, the only school in North Devon to be awarded along with an art award from The Burton Art Gallery
- A new Forest School area to provide even better learning for all in these skills
- New musical instruments and a specialist music teacher to improve how we deliver that part of the curriculum
- Increased collaboration with groups of other maintained schools in North Devon
- Completion of end points in all of the children's subject books, to allow staff and parents to see at a glance where the pupils need to be in each subject
- A brilliant audit and report by an external advisor on how effective we are in early years provisions, early reading and phonics



Looking ahead to the autumn term, we have already started working on our main priorities for all staff and pupils:

- Mental health is still a big focus, and we will be supporting the Welfare Teaching Assistant to be working with more individuals and specific groups on improving their resilience and growth
- Rolling out Read Write Inc further to improve the already high standard achieved in phonics, with new teaching sequences, fresh start and interventions as needed to close any gaps amongst pupils
- Improve pupil's spelling via a new training programme for the staff to improve standards across the school
- Improving attendance at the school, to get us back to the previously high levels following two years of disruption
- Connect our children to the environment via the new and improved Forest School area
- Improve speech and language across the school via a new learning programme and assessment, starting in Early Years

As well as the education improvements planned, we are investing in new facilities as well; from improved toilets and cloakroom spaces for Class 1, to a new running track for the sports field, repairing the boat and installing new outside musical instruments. Off the back of the successful London trip, further visits and trips will be planned to allow pupils to have new experiences, extend their talents and develop their confidence and independence. Alongside this, there will be a focus on ensuring our pupils understanding of equality and diversity is increased through discussions, debates and exploring different cultures as part of the curriculum. Finally, we will be looking to gain Plastic Free status across the school.

May we take this opportunity to wish all the staff, pupils, parents and carers a fantastic Summer break and look forward to seeing you again in September, fully refreshed, recharged and excited for the school term ahead.

Many thanks

Austen Donnellan
Chair – Monkleigh School Governors