

Lickey Hills Primary School & Nursery

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Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to the 2019/20 academic year and particularly to our new parents and carers who have joined us this year. I am delighted to have been appointed Chair of the Governing Body, in this my seventh year of service. We have a strong Governing Body and I am particularly pleased that the previous Chair, Mario Claydon, will be Vice Chair for this academic year.

In this first letter of the year, I thought it would be helpful to provide a flavour of the sort of things we discuss as a Governing Body in our role of overseeing the strategic vision for the school.

Raising educational standards for all children at Lickey Hills is a key part of our role. By working closely with the staff and the Senior Leadership Team, we understand the decisions that are taken to develop and improve the school. This understanding enables us to challenge these decisions at times, to ensure all possibilities have been explored and the issues have been thought about from different viewpoints.

- Ofsted highlighted an improvement area relating to Maths - we have responded by supporting the Head Teacher in appointing a new Assistant Head Teacher, Mrs Bowen, who brings mathematics expertise and is supporting Mr Brewer in continuing to develop our maths scheme (Maths No Problem) across the whole of KS1 and KS2 with particular focus on mental maths. I recently attended an excellent parent workshop to see how maths was being taught across the school and I urge parents to attend these workshops which provide a great insight into how things have changed since our school days and how we can best support our children.
- Developing links and relationships with partners - a focus for the Governors has been to reach out to other schools and partners to gain as much good practice from as many different sources as possible. The school has responded well and we are now part of a local group of Primary Schools as well as the Bromsgrove Learning Network which includes, amongst others, the other feeder schools for Waseley Hills High School. Through Mrs Bowen, a specialist maths leader, we are now working as part of the GLOW Maths hub sharing good practice across Gloucestershire and Worcestershire.
- Silver Sports Mark - as a result of the school's work to increase daily physical exercise for our children we were delighted to hear that the school have had its School Sports Mark upgraded from Bronze to Silver. This was in recognition of more involvement in inter-school tournaments, the lunchtime clubs and a commitment to the Daily Mile run in KS2.

Each of the Governors has allocated areas of responsibility such as Maths and Phonics. By building relationships with the link teacher and undertaking monitoring throughout the year we understand the impact of the hard work and dedication from our staff and can identify on-going areas of progress. We have been pleased with the improvements we've been seeing through this process.

A key responsibility of our role is to ensure that the children at Lickey Hills are given the best education in a safe and secure environment. To that end, we have invested heavily in safeguarding aspects to keep pupils and staff safer.

- Fencing - we have increased the fencing around the school perimeter in line with the recommendations from our health and safety audit.

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- KS1 playground - we have increased the size of the playground by moving the staff car parking spaces to the front of the school. We are working towards our aspiration to repair the play equipment in this playground for the children.
- Vehicle access to the school grounds - we have moved the school gates to a prominent position on the school drive enabling staff to use the parking area on the field. We recognise that this is not as convenient for parents using The Hive, but we appreciate your understanding and adherence to this change enabling us to keep our children safe whilst on site.

As we have reported in previous communications, school finances continue to provide challenges for all schools. Our School Business Manager, Mr Dillon, has now been in post for 12 months and has proved to be a great asset to our office team. We are keen to ensure that finances don't curtail the fantastic extra-curricular opportunities our children have access to and appreciate your support in this matter. We are also developing our links with the PTA and give them our full support with all their fundraising. We recognise the hard work which goes into running these events and really appreciate this. Please make every effort to support them in any way you can, enabling the work to be spread across as many people as possible. New members are always welcome at their meetings and everyone says it is fun and rewarding.

We have just celebrated our first-year anniversary of The Hive and a massive thank you to Miss Lynch and her team. The effort and dedication they have shown is outstanding and we are delighted to hear such positive comments from the parents and carers of the children who attend. Of particular note was the summer holiday club which saw beach parties and mocktails. We are hoping that this will continue to be a regular club during holidays and offer our full support for this growing venture.

We will shortly be sending out our annual parent survey. Changes to the parent survey this year reflect the revised Ofsted Framework and we really hope that as many parents as possible will respond and provide comments directly to the school, positive or negative. We will also provide opportunities for the staff to share their comments to us, so that as the Governing Body we can understand and respond to the voices of parents/carers, pupils, staff and local communities and employers.

We would like to thank the senior leaders and teachers for their continued support and hard work. They offer a range of lunchtime and after-school clubs, as well as leading particular areas which are on top of their classroom commitments, all of which contribute to enhancing the children's education. Our best wishes go to Mrs Hawthorne as she starts her maternity leave and we also look forward to welcoming back Mrs Ray from hers. And finally, I would like to thank the Governors who all give their time freely and fully embrace the commitment to their role.

Yours sincerely

Emily Mayne

Chair of Governors

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