

Governors' annual report to parents and carers for 2021/2022

Our school started the academic year in September 2022 riding high on the success of a number of achievements from the last academic year. Despite the interruptions of covid to life and learning in the last couple of years, we are delighted to report that the school's approach to face to face and remote learning resulted in:

An excellent and improved set of Maths SATs results for both years 2 and 6. The summer term of 2022 saw the return of standard assessment tests ("SATs") for years two and six after a two year break during the pandemic. Maths was identified as an area of priority by Ofsted back in December 2018 and staff have been working very hard since and throughout the pandemic to improve how maths is taught and to embed a consistent coherent curriculum across school. This paid off with key stage 2 progress and attainment of the high standard **significantly above average nationally** and in the **highest 20%** of schools in 2022. Boys outperforming girls was an area of concern and the 2022 key stage 2 results showed that maths outcomes for girls were as good as the boys which was also a fantastic achievement. The plan for this year is to sustain the good outcomes that we have seen in maths at our school. Governors would like to thank our maths lead, Assistant Head of key stage 1 and Glow hub specialist Mrs Bowen as well as the rest of the staff for their excellent efforts in this area.

An excellent set of phonics, reading and writing results for both years 2 and 6. We are happy to report that a greater percentage of children passed the phonics screening test and key stage 2 progress and attainment of the high standard in the areas of reading, writing, English grammar, punctuation and spelling was **significantly above average nationally** and also in the **highest 20%** of schools in 2022. The school is currently in the first year of implementing a new phonics system called Essential Letters and Sounds. During 2020/21 governors supported £17k investment in reading books and staff training and a further £10K has been committed for 2022/23. Phonics, reading and writing remain key priority areas in the school's development plan for this academic year. For phonics, teachers are aiming to further embed the new phonics scheme to ensure all teachers and teaching assistants are experts in the teaching of phonics so that more children learn to read well from the start. Governors would like to thank the phonics, reading and writing leads, Assistant Head of key stage 2, Mrs Page, Dr. Kirby (year 1) and Miss Williams (year 6) and the rest of the staff for the progress made in this area and for their continued efforts.

The introduction of a bespoke new non-core curriculum in our school with key strengths in science, music, history and art. The curriculum is well designed and documented and the local area is at the heart of our bespoke curriculum. Subject co-ordinators have been involved in developing their subjects, year groups and key stage with each other and other colleagues from partner schools. Key stage 2 attainment of the expected standard in science was also **significantly above average nationally** and in the **highest 20%** of schools in 2022. Thank you to Miss Salisbury, Head Teacher and Helen Bowen, Assistant Head of key stage 1 as key leaders of the non-core curriculum.

We have also seen and been pleased to support:

The success of the school's application to work towards an award for Inclusive Practice. The Inclusion Quality Mark award provides UK schools with a nationally recognised validation of their inclusive practice. We are one of 12 schools across Worcestershire chosen to work towards this award, and is in recognition of the school's work on inclusion for all. Led by Mrs Williams, Deputy Head and SENDCO, we hope to achieve this award by the end of 2023. This is truly reflective of our school's inclusive ethos and Governors would like to

thank Mrs Williams for her significant efforts with this, and for setting up new drop in sessions and support for parents of pupils with SEND.

The start and completion of a new adventure playground in KS1 play. Our return to school in September saw the beginning of a new adventure playground area being built in the key stage 1 playground area, which was completed shortly after the autumn half term. This was a project that has been in the pipeline for some time and has resulted in a smart, fun play area and we are glad that our children can now benefit from it. Our thanks go to the school's business manager Ben Dillon who did the research and has overseen the project and the Hive for funding it.

Much needed repairs to the school roof. Governors have also been pleased to support a roof project, which is due to complete at the end of January 2023. This will complete over £450k of works on the school roofs over the last two years. There is an additional layer of insulation in the new roofing, which we hope leads to slightly lower bills and a warmer school in general!

Changes to staffing body: We said goodbye to Mrs Valentine (year 1), Mr Brewer (year 6) and Mrs Chivers (year 6) at the end of the summer term. We thank them for all their hard work and wish them well in their next teaching positions. We welcomed back Mrs Page from maternity leave to her role as Assistant Head of Key Stage 2 and welcomed Mrs Llewelyn and Miss Moore to year 5 and Mrs Whittaker to year 2. We hope you have settled into life at school and we look forward to working in partnership with you.

Change in staff governor: Dr. Kirby finished her term of office as staff governor just before Christmas. We thank her for all she has done. She has been replaced by Miss Williams, with whom we look forward to working. Welcome! It is fantastic to have the staff body represented on the governing board.

The Hive: Governors have been pleased to support the following projects between 2019 and 2022 funded by income from The Hive: perimeter fencing and gates (£45.6k); whiteboards (£15k); English/ Reading funding (£7k); Year 3/4 toilet refurbishment (£3.5k); and the new adventure playground for key stage 1. Thank you to Miss Lynch and team for their efforts in running the Hive.

Looking forward to the rest of this academic year and beyond, the governing board are continuing its work on the following:

- **An all-weather pitch for 2023/24** to be funded by the Hive. We will report again in due course.
- **Strategy initiatives** including a school sustainability working party looking at the development of school facilities, academic provision and the onward senior schooling of our pupils; and a multi-academy trust (MAT) watching brief (in light of the government's goal to move all schools into strong MATs by 2030) as an evaluation exercise to help inform the strategic direction of our school.

Do you know anyone within our local community who could make a difference to our school as a co-opted governor? We are looking for some co-opted governors (not parent governors on this occasion) to join the governing board. Perhaps you know of a grandparent, professional or retired person living locally who might be interested and could be persuaded? Please spread the word. While an inquisitive nature, ability to question / analyse and a skill set would be useful, these are not essential. However, being interested and willing to learn is key. Governing bodies need people from all walks of life and backgrounds. Our governing

board is committed to achieving the best possible education and outcomes for all the pupils in our school. Expressions of interest should be sent to chairofgovernors@lickeyhills.worcs.sch.uk

Finally, no governor report would be complete without a big thank you to Miss Salisbury, the senior leadership team and the rest of the teaching, office, support site and Hive staff for continuing to lead and serve our school and without whom, Lickey Hills Primary School and Nursery would not be able to function. We leave you with some pictures of the new key stage 1 adventure playground and hope you had a good start to the new year.

Katherine Sinclair, Co-Vice Chair, on behalf of the Governing Body

