Southway Junior School
Southway
Burgess Hill
West Sussex
RH15 9SU

Headteacher: Mr P Newbold

Tel. 01444 233824
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Chair of Governors Update
July 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

I am delighted to give you all an update on behalf of the Southway Junior School Governing Body. We have had another very successful year.

For the first time in the school's history I am delighted to say we now have a waiting list for children wishing to join the school and we are officially oversubscribed.

SATS Results

We have now completed our second year of teaching the new curriculum and I am delighted to confirm that our provisional SATS results continue to show an overall upward trend, with both Reading, Writing, GPS (Grammar Punctuation and Spelling) and Reading Writing & Maths combined all showing marked improvements. Our writing results were slightly lower and we have already started planning to address this area.

Local Authority Visit Report

Recently we received a visit from the Local Authority Education team where they interviewed the Governing Body and Headteacher. The focus was firmly on the quality of Leadership and Management. The result of the meeting was extremely positive and they remarked that the local authority would support the school in self evaluating as 'outstanding' in leadership and management, as judged against current Ofsted criteria. Whilst having this external review was insightful and welcome we will continue to strive to make the entire school outstanding in all areas as judged by Ofsted.

Investment in School Fabric and Premises

Our new Premises Manager Gareth Kirby has, I am sure you will all be aware, been busy ensuring the school premises continue to be improved. We are delighted that we have opened the pool this year and continue to fund improvements within school despite the very difficult financial constraints we find ourselves with.

We have agreed to relocate the ICT suite to the Music Room and continue with our carpet replacement plans, now moving into the Year 5 classrooms. Added to this we will be decorating all year 3 classrooms too.

Over the last 4 years we have managed to spend £107,500 on improving the school due to very careful financial planning and by raising funds from outside school means.

Staff Update

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We say farewell to some teachers who are moving onto to new schools and of course welcome new ones into the Southway family.

We say farewell to Miss Aidallbery, Year 5 class teacher, Mrs Arnold, Miss Hutchinson and Miss Bird as well as our SENCo, Alison Green. We wish them good luck in their future endeavours.

We welcome back from maternity leave our teacher Claire Moleton joining the team in year 6.

We are delighted to confirm the new appointments of Jessica Crego in Year 3. Jessica spent some time with us this year as part of her student teacher training and impressed us so much we are delighted she has chosen to start her teaching career at Southway.

Mrs Andrea Bray has been appointed as our new SENCo and has been undertaking an extensive handover with Mrs Green over the last few months.

Thanks to Staff

I would like to place on record my sincere thanks to the staff. I am a regular visitor to school and I witness first-hand how every member of staff always places the children as their top priority. Their dedication and hard work continues to reap rewards and I am sure you will agree the children are thriving as a result. The effort and determination they give day in day out is a tribute to their desire to provide the best possible education to all the pupils.

The number of clubs and sessions that take place outside the school day grows and is as diverse as a gardening club to tag rugby, choir to chess.

Thanks to Governing Body

I would like to place on record my sincere thanks to my Governing Body. Their support and dedication they give me and the school is always appreciated and ensures that together we hold the school to account whilst acting as a critical friend. In our roles as governors we are always focussed on the best interests of the school and its pupils and the unpaid role is so often underestimated in the time, effort and resources it takes from the team.

HSA

I am sure you are all aware of the HSA and their loyal team of volunteers who fundraise and allow the school to purchase equipment and resources beyond the means of the school budget.

Please continue to support them in their many efforts to raise funds for the school. They are always looking at different initiatives but these are only successful if parents assist them.

Getting the children outdoors has a proven major influence on their learning and with our new facilities our pupils can benefit for years to come.

Summer Holidays and Year 6 Children

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On behalf of the Governing Body I wish staff, pupils, parents and carers a very relaxing summer holiday. To the Year 6 leavers we wish you the very best of luck in your new schools and remember that you are always welcome to visit the school; you will always be part of the Southway family. Having attended the France residential trip with the current year 6 I have seen them develop first hand this year and I know they will leave the Southway family with special memories.

Just last week I attended the Year 6 school drama production and was dazzled by the performance. The children did themselves proud and I witnessed a truly inspiring piece of theatre. I could not help but feel children who attend Southway enjoy the truly diverse and fun curriculum which prepares them all for life at secondary school.

Governor Positions Available

Your Governing Body is committed to the school and its development. We are always open to new suggestions thoughts and feedback. Contact can be made via the office where any of us will be happy to speak with you.

We are also looking for new recruits and if any parent or outside family member wishes to consider joining the Governing Body we will be holding elections in September. I am always available to speak with any parent and share our inspirational work.

Peter Izard
Chair of Governors