



**HOLY TRINITY & S. SILAS C. E. PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
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Head Teacher: Ms L. Dolan Deputy: Mr N. McIntyre



## *Governor Report to Parents - July 2021*

The Performance Committee of governors meets five times every academic year and our job is to monitor how our school is delivering the curriculum in the classroom, challenging all our children and helping them to achieve their highest potential, not just against nationally set standards, but bearing in mind the capabilities and talents of every individual child. We also look to ensure the provision for children who need extra help – be that those with SEND needs or on pupil premium – is effective, catching their needs as soon as they appear and making sure all children are fully included.

This has been an exceptionally challenging year for children, families and schools and we are all fortunate that our school – the senior leadership team, all the staff, pupils and parents – have risen to that and held together strongly as a community.

When we were required to move to home learning again during the winter lockdown from January to early March, the school was able to swing into online schooling quickly and effectively across all different ages of children in the school, whilst also remaining open, safely, for key worker children. The online learning programme was ambitious: giving each class daily, scheduled, 'live' lesson time with their teachers not only made sure engagement and attendance from pupils was excellent but also helped hold the children together, from a mental wellbeing perspective, as part of their class of friends.

Children have had two 'returns' to school this year – in September and again in March – and staff have very effectively been able to discover what the impact of not being in school has been on levels of attainment, particularly in maths, reading and writing. Ms Dolan, Mr McIntyre and class teachers identified exactly what catch up is required for individual pupils, there has been extra 'mirror' teaching time given (by our additional teaching staff and teaching assistants) and we are very happy to say, at the end of the year, almost all children are working at the level we would have expected of them, pre-lockdown.

School is never complacent and is alert to possible, particular areas in which children may need extra, ongoing support. For next year we have inventive new programmes coming for phonics in Reception & Y1 and in early reading across the infant classes. The curriculum planning for every subject across all years is exciting and next year will be stimulated again by trips, specialist visitors and subject 'weeks'.

The focus on catching up in all the foundation areas has not diminished the gusto of our arts, drama and music - Shakespeare term has happened! Even if in a different form. This is testament to the resilience and enthusiasm of our children - and the energy, imagination and commitment of all our staff. A huge focus for everyone in the school this year has been the wellbeing and mental health of each other, which has been done always with our Christian ethos in mind and we trust has made everyone feel supported.





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In April we agreed to receive an informal Ofsted inspection as they test their new system for measuring schools. The feedback was very positive, with many of their recommendations already in line with the school's development plans for the coming years.



The Resources Committee officially meets every half term. We oversee the budget, premises, health and safety and human resources, providing support and guidance to the Head and Staff on such matters. We then report back to the Full Governing Board, which meets six times a year.

After what we are sure you will all agree has been a particularly challenging year, the School remains in sound financial shape, despite the many challenges it faces – in line with many other state schools in London, it has been dealing with increasing costs and tight funding for many years. This year brought with it the added difficulties associated with COVID-19 and resulting extra costs, but in the main these were offset by COVID-19 related savings and extra funding. We are fortunate that we were able to supplement our finances with contributions from other sources, such as the Mercers' Company, who we would like to thank for funding the Christmas show, the fantastic Shakespeare project and Humanutopia, as well as making it possible for the school to purchase iPads and a charging safe, which have been crucial during the time of remote learning. We would also like to thank PiP for their continuing support, which allowed us to purchase additional iPads and as a result the school is now well resourced with ICT equipment for future years. In addition to these extra resources, it is thanks to the careful planning and budgeting from the management team that the school can continue to provide the high-quality education that we are used to. In particular, we are grateful to have an excellent School Business Manager, whose hard work and expertise are invaluable to the School and the Governors.

During the next school year, one of our key priorities will be how to use the resources available to ensure that any gaps that may have arisen from this year either academically or from a general wellbeing perspective are addressed. We are confident that thanks to our fantastic staff, great leadership team and our wonderful school community, our children will all be back on track in achieving their full potential!

In the meantime, we wish you all a very happy summer holiday and look forward to being part of the school next year.

