

GOVERNING BODY END OF YEAR REPORT – 2017/18



As another school year comes to an end, the Governors would like to take this opportunity to reflect on our school's achievements during 2017/18. We would like to thank Chasey Crawford Usher as Headteacher for her leadership, energy and enthusiasm and all the teaching and non-teaching staff for their continued dedication and commitment to creating a safe, happy, caring and inspiring learning environment in which children can learn, grow and achieve. Significant improvements have been required to move our school forward and we are now on a solid upward trajectory.

HOT OFF THE PRESS

We are delighted with our Year 6 SATs results – published last week – and in particular the impressive Reading and Maths scores.

Reading

83% of our Year 6s achieved the Expected standard – National average = 75%
39% achieved the Exceeding standard

Writing

72% reached Expected standard – National average = 78%
14% achieved Exceeding standard

Maths

89% reached the Expected standard – National average = 76%
36% achieved the Exceeding standard

In all other classes, the progress made by pupils has been pleasing and every child is prepared for the new challenges in new classes from September.

TEACHING

Our teaching across the school is now classified as Good or better. We are also fortunate to have a highly dedicated team of excellent TAs in our school. Despite the challenging financial climate, we are committed to investing in high calibre teaching staff and keen to retain the quality and our classroom ratios. This is why new funding streams are so important to our school – see *FUNDING below*. We are also very mindful of the increasing workload on teachers and non-teaching staff and the resulting impact on their wellbeing. This will be an area of focus for the Governing Body and the school in 2018/19.

OFSTED

Ofsted recognised the drive to raise standards in our school by awarding us our highest Ofsted result for a decade during our inspection in November. Ofsted judged our school to be a solid Good in all areas and praised our Headteacher and the Senior Leadership Team for “inspiring leadership” and an “unwavering determination to provide the best for pupils.” The strong parental support we’ve had for all the changes we’ve made in recent years was also viewed very favourably by Ofsted. Our Early Years provision continues to be held up as an exemplar by the local authority and is oversubscribed for September 2018. Ofsted rated our Early Years as Good during our latest inspection – it was rated Inadequate five years ago.



Headteacher Chasey Crawford Usher and colleagues Sarah McGrath and Hannah Farrington and Reception class at Wateringbury Primary School
Photo: Chris Owen / NPS2018/19 by permission from Wateringbury Primary School

Hard work rewarded with Ofsted success

Wateringbury Primary School celebrating after receiving best Ofsted judgement in a decade.
Five years ago inspectors said required improvement. But in latest report, it was rated good in all five areas.
Headteacher Chasey Crawford was praised for her “inspiring leadership” and an “unwavering determination to provide the best for pupils.”

she took the helm in 2014.
The report commended the flow of the school's above average Year 1 phonics screening results and Year 6 reading, writing and mathematics standards, and its focus on outdoor learning opportunities and healthy lifestyles.
To improve further, it recommended the school should continue to progress its provision for a decade.

suggested pupils are given more opportunities to take responsibility for their own learning.
Chris Clark, chairman of governors, said: “The drive and determination of our headteacher and the senior leadership team has been instrumental in moving our school to our best Ofsted judgement for a decade.”

strong parental support for all the changes we've made in recent years.”
Mrs Crawford later added: “I'm delighted that the report recognises our vision, ambition and aspirations for the school and the combined efforts of everyone involved with the school – staff, governors, children, parents and volunteers – to improve outcomes for our pupils.”

PARENT SURVEY

Our annual parent survey confirms support for our approach:

- 100% of those who responded said their children were happy in school
- 100% said their child was taught well
- 100% said their child made good progress
- 100% said their child felt safe and well cared for in school
- 100% said they would recommend our school to other parents.

SPORT

We are extremely proud of our school's sporting endeavours. In 2017/18 our sports teams have excelled. Congratulations to all those who have represented the school during the year in cross-country, decathlon, cricket, football and netball and huge thanks to the parents who volunteer to assist our sports stars or support them from the sidelines. The school has also received inspirational visits from England international rugby player Rachael Burford and Commonwealth Games gold medal-winning gymnast James Hall.

VOLUNTEERS

Our school has a long and proud history of volunteering. Apart from providing classroom support and help at sports and after school clubs, our volunteers help to create a strong sense of community. Our parent body FOWPS also helps to raise much-needed funds for our school through fun, family-friendly events. This year's fundraising has enabled the school to purchase monkey bars and chin up bars as well as new classroom interactive flat panels, water bottles for the Pink Class intake, Bee-Bots resources and a contribution to the Year 6 Leavers' Books. Our two Parent Governors are both ex-FOWPS committee members and we would strongly encourage you to support their activities in any way you can, by attending and helping out at events or just by offering to help on a one-off basis. You will receive a warm welcome. Speak to Sarah Sewell or Carrie Welham to offer your support or email chairman@fowps.org.uk

FUNDING

As the budget continues to tighten, we are having to look at alternative routes to generate more income, having cut our costs as much as possible. This is in addition to the support provided by FOWPS. At the start of the academic year we launched our Voluntary School Fund (VSF) and we are extremely grateful for all the contributions to date. It's an easy way to offer your support to the school during these challenging financial times and makes a huge difference. Please ask at the office for more details, speak to any governor or look on the VSF section of the school website. We were also grateful for a £9,000 donation from Kings Hill-based Mortgages for Business which enabled us to update our IT systems. We have numerous ways in which companies can support our activities or sponsor resources for subjects including Science. Please email Gail Isted at gisted@wateringbury.kent.sch.uk if you or your business would like to help or if you work for a company that provides match funding.

NEXT CHAPTER

After a tremendous fundraising effort last year, we will open our new-look school library this week. This is a fantastic achievement and testament to the wide community support we have at Wateringbury. This is an exciting new chapter for our school where reading remains a top priority. In another new chapter, Chris Clark is stepping down after four years as Chair of the Governing Body. He will remain on the Governing Body but on behalf of the entire school community, the Governing Body would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his calm and professional leadership.

FAREWELL

We would like to take this opportunity to say farewell and good luck to staff who are leaving our school this summer. Thank you for your valued contributions and good luck in all your future endeavours. We would particularly like to thank Deputy Headteacher Abi Woodhouse for her immense contribution and impact during her time at Wateringbury. We also wish our Year 6 students and their families a fond farewell and all the very best as they embark on their new secondary school adventures. Thank you for all the positive contributions you have made to life at Wateringbury. Congratulations to our Year 6 prize-winners, named after their production last week. The Governors' Cup has been awarded this year to Macey Prebble for her overall contribution to school life.

"Leaders, staff and governors share the vision, ambition and determination to provide the best possible learning experiences for pupils. As a result, the quality of teaching and learning, pupils' outcomes and behaviour are now good. Pupils have positive attitudes to learning. They enjoy all they do, work hard and want to do well."

Ofsted Lead Inspector, November 2017