

The Governor

July 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

It seems as if only yesterday I was writing my 2016 letter to parents. Once again, time's flown by, and, having completed our final governing body meeting of 2016 / 17, I'm taking the opportunity to write to our community after another exciting and eventful year at MHPS.

We take time at governor meetings to reflect on our collective achievements as well as to consider areas where we can make further progress.

We recognise that ours is a community of 420 children, 60 staff and more than 800 parents and carers, and the diversity of skills, culture and opinion that comes from having over 1,300 stakeholders brings joy and vibrancy to our school. The governing body has to make difficult decisions that are in the best interests of the school and in doing so we appreciate that we cannot please everyone all the time.

I know that you all understand this and trust you will continue to make your ideas and points of view heard. I am grateful to my fellow governors for their work in navigating the challenging and ongoing financial pressures, reconstitution of our governing body and other external pressures that they are tasked with managing; they give their time and effort freely for which we should all be grateful. As a governing body we have concluded that we do not intend to seek Academy status but we are well aware of the pressures we face; ones which will require us to seek to work more closely with our neighbouring schools and evolve the relationship we have with our local authority in these times of austerity.

Once again, we say a huge thank you to all of our staff. James has continued to captain the ship on a steady course, through some challenging waters. I am in the privileged position of seeing what goes on behind the scenes; it is difficult to overstate the tact, deftness and integrity the headteacher demonstrates in his leadership of our school. His relationship with the children is a constant source of wonder to me. His office is full with declarations of love and friendship from children throughout the year groups. I struggle to imagine another school in which a Y6 child would feel sufficiently confident to shout 'RUN FASTER, JAMES!' from a moving vehicle whilst the Headmaster did his best to keep his suit (and hair) dry during a downpour of Biblical proportions.

Our staff have excelled once again, and we thank all of you - Helen, Gillian, SLT, teachers, TA's, LSA's, SMSA's, kitchen staff, Graham, the office and the cleaning team - for another outstanding year of hard work and dedication to our children. Our first class results this year reflect the hard work every one of you puts in to making our school a special place. To all staff members that are moving on to new things, we wish you luck and thank you for your dedication to our school; to all new staff members, welcome to our community.

In a look back over the school year, highlights have included maths week, music & dance week, design technology week, Football Friday, incredible sports and music achievements, as well as phenomenal submissions for the Head & Chair's Challenges to name but a few. The effort from the children never fails to astound me. We have bright, engaging, creative, enthusiastic students, whose spirit I hope will never dampen.

WE LOVE OUR SPA! Our SPA have achieved great things. Throughout the year, they've organised a spectrum of fundraisers that have been tremendous fun - the school quiz, sponsored walk, penny competition to name a few - and the summer and winter fairs were the best yet! We continue to make incredible progress with the outdoor areas. Our playgrounds are unrecognisable from 2 years ago - we even have our Astroturf pitch! I could run the superlative thesaurus dry, but on behalf of the entire community - THANK YOU!! You are one of the lynchpins of our community and we hope you enjoy a well-earned summer break. The school really wouldn't be the same without you.

We thank, from the bottom of our hearts, every one of you that has made a contribution to our school this year. From the Learning Enhancement Fund to Mandarin Programme donations; from manning a stall at a fair or fund raiser, to painting sets and cutting polystyrene for the Y6 production. We couldn't do it without you. You guys make our community.

But, ultimately, it's about our children.

The fundamental aim of our school - our 'product'- is the child that leaves Y6. For MHPS, success, is a happy child prepared for secondary school having developed a rewarding and positive relationship with education. There's no doubt academic progress has an essential part to play in that, however, we're unwavering in our belief that test scores should not come at the cost of emotional wellbeing. From Reception to Year 6, we aim for every class and experience throughout the children's time at MHP to combine to produce children we are proud of.

Our EYFS team have successfully integrated another 60 four and five year old children into our school. The reception classrooms are a joy to experience - the displays, the Special Books, the child-led learning - bring a unique and joyful atmosphere to the classes and serve to instill another cohort with a love of learning at MHPS. The children's progress this year has been phenomenal, and our EY team have, once again, been commended by Haringey as a 'best in class' example.

To our Y6 leavers. You are self-aware, compassionate and well-adjusted individuals. You are well prepared for the next stage of your journey, and we hope you leave us with the knowledge and understanding that you should judge yourself not by how many 'likes' your posts get; not by what test score you've achieved - but only by the way in which you interact with the world around you; the friendship bonds you've nurtured and take with you; the impact your lives have on others and the pride you feel in yourselves. MHPS is deeply proud of the young adults you are turning into. We will miss you. Keep in touch - let us know how you're getting on.

Finally, we look towards September. A new intake of excited parents and children. A major facelift for our school building. New staff, new classrooms, and of course, new fund raisers! It's going to be emotional.

If you have any suggestions for the governing body, we will be meeting in early September to set our agenda for the 2017/18 year. Feel free to send us an email at governors@muswell-hill.haringey.sch.uk

I wish you all a wonderful summer break and look forward to seeing you in September.

Simon Wantman
Chair of Governors
Muswell Hill Primary School