

19<sup>th</sup> January 2018

Dear Parent/Carer,

At last term's Open Mornings to prospective parents I spoke about how I believed that the school had special, unique qualities that made it such a great school for pupils to attend and for staff to work at. I spoke about how the schools were forward-looking, never opting to be complacent, always striving to be better. I spoke about the sense of community and pride that was a central part of Honeywell.

I spend little time detailing the school's impressive academic results as the audience has probably viewed them as they are in the public domain. However, I feel I must mention last year's results as the school has a fantastic set of results and these can now be viewed on the DfE website.

[DfE Compare School Performance - Wandsworth](#)

The school was second in the Local Authority when considering the % of pupils achieving the expected standard (and above) in Reading, Writing and Maths and we were substantially above the national data in this area.

The school also achieved very highly (third in Wandsworth) when the % of children achieving the higher standard of work are viewed: again the school is well above the national data in this area. Indeed, the Fisher Family Trust data places the school in the top 2 percentile nationally for both the expected standard in R, W + M and for the average of the (scaled) test scores in these subjects. An outstanding achievement!

Very pleasingly the children made very good progress as well. This is always difficult for junior schools as OFSTED recognise, but I am delighted to report that all our children made greater progress than their national counterparts and that the pupils in ALL the specific groups (SEND, Disadvantaged, AEL, More able) made greater progress than the equivalent national groups

At this point parents may be thinking: why on earth is the school embarking on another set of initiatives when the results have been so exceptional? The answer to this question is that the children we teach are always different with separate needs and different strengths and so require different inputs and approaches. Also, as I mentioned earlier we must never, as a successful school, be complacent and simply "rest on our laurels".

It is this drive to self-improve coupled with the unquenchable desire that the school to continue to excel that has led me to write this letter about the targets and developments which Governors, staff and I have set for the coming year. I wanted to share them with you, as key members of the school community, and to give you a progress update as this is part of our desire to improve communication between school and home.

We have chosen these areas as our priorities for this year because we are particularly keen to make sure that pupils deepen their appreciation of Reading for its own sake, as well as achieving the DfE requirements, and to provide a rich and varied education for all pupils which enhance their understanding of the world. The school wants the children to be engaged, develop a love of learning and to develop enquiring minds in preparation to their transfer to secondary school and future study.

I hope you find the following information helpful and if you have any comments, or questions, please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Duncan Roberts



**HONEYWELL JUNIOR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES 2017-18**

**Priority 1.**

**“The teaching of Reading is to be developed to ensure that the pupils are encouraged to “Read for Pleasure” This focus is to further enhance the high standards of Reading that the school currently enjoys.”**

**Actions undertaken in the Autumn Term**

1. The focus on the Teaching of Reading was discussed at two staff meetings and good practice shared amongst colleagues.
2. Observations of the Teaching of Reading undertaken by post holders- this also included a book scrutiny, interviews with children and a questionnaire. An evaluation of evidence showed that the Teaching of Reading was of a high quality and this was presented to Governors, see below
3. English Core Review – focussing on the Teaching of Reading was presented to Governors at the last Curriculum Committee meeting for consideration. The review also included an analysis of the excellent Yr 6 SATs Reading results, which showed that the school was in the top 4% of schools in England for achievement.
4. A staff meeting on the teaching of Reading was delivered by post holders so that expertise could be shared amongst the staff.
5. Teaching of Reading resources were distributed by post holders
6. Staff allocated £800\* to purchase additional Reading books for the classrooms.
7. SEN/EAL and library to receive £800 for Reading resources
8. The School has bought a subscription to The Day Explorer - a weekly KS 2 newspaper. This is an electronic publication and will be free for each child. It will enhance Reading skills and provide news and current affairs information.
9. The Suffolk Reading Tests were completed in September for the Yr 3 children and all “new arrivals” to the school. The results are currently being considered.

\*Generously funded by the PTFA

**Priority 2**

**“The development of the Foundation Subjects - ensuring that a broad and balanced curriculum is maintained whilst guaranteeing that there is no dilution in the standards of teaching and learning”.**

**Actions undertaken in the Autumn Term**

1. All Foundation post holders, except the Art and Design post holder, have led a staff meeting to look at the teaching of that specific subject area.
2. All Foundation post holders have undertaken a review of their subject’s resources.
3. A PE Learning Walk was undertaken by Governors and the postholder (report to the Governors)
4. Workshops for children on Art and British Values informed and stimulated all pupils.



5. 6 teachers attended courses on the teaching of PE and 1 member of staff attended a teaching of RE course.
6. The staff has used a number of outside providers to enliven a range of subject areas. These included: (Yr 5 Victorians – drama, Yr 6 Britain since WW2 – drama, Science – the whole school saw a range of presentations led by staff from the Science Museum, Yr 4 Vikings – role play, Yr 3 Egyptians - trip to the Imax).
7. A special Black History Month Assembly which followed on from a homework task, was presented to the school by a group of pupils.

### Priority 3

**“Providing an outstanding education is an ongoing priority and the school will be focussing on the Safeguarding of children, the teaching of Writing and the long term future of the school.”**

#### Actions undertaken in the Autumn Term

1. The introduction of the security lanyard
2. The repair of the electronic gates.
3. Fortnightly references in the Head teacher’s letter about Safeguarding. The last newsletter contained information to parents about children accessing YouTube.
4. The school is currently waiting to see if the capital bid to fund the re-siting of the school Office will go ahead. This development would enhance the school’s security as all visitors would be processed by the Office before being able to access the site.
5. Following training for the school Bursar, the school is about to arrange training on lock down procedures.
6. The “safe handling of children” training for ALL staff is scheduled for the January INSET day and for subsequent staff meetings in the Spring term.
7. The postholders attended a course on the teaching Writing run by James Clements

### Priority 4

**“The development of the schools over the next 3 years”**

1. The Governors has established a “task force” to look at all the pressures likely to affect the schools in the next three years, these include – Financial, Educational, External.



## Communication

We are constantly striving to extend the communication channels between parents and staff and much has been accomplished in the past year.

The schools' website is now extremely detailed and I am indebted to Jennie Appleby for her expertise and hard work in updating it. The website should now be the first place parents should go in order to find out information or get general guidance about the school. The Headteachers' newsletters are also to be found on the website as well as information about schools' performance, school policies, information about the governors and the organisation of the school.

The Honeywell schools' website is  
<http://www.honeywellschools.org>



The Junior school has a Twitter feed and my thanks to Mrs Mitchell for arranging this. Follow us on Twitter on [@HoneywellJunior@Deputyhoneywell](https://twitter.com/HoneywellJunior) for updates and information. This Twitter account is open to parents, staff and governors.

Finally, I am sure that parents/carers will be delighted to learn that the schools have recently invested in "WisePay" a computer software product which will allow parents to pay electronically for all school items and events. The staff will be receiving training during the Spring term and it is hoped that parents/carers will be able to pay for their children's school meals using "WisePay" at the start of the Summer term 2018. It is envisaged that the whole electronic payment process (clubs, school trips, school journey, visitors) will be up and running for September 2018.

As I stated earlier, the school is committed to develop and to improve, never becoming complacent. I believe that the measures I have highlighted above will continue and accelerate that drive to improve and I look forward to letting you know of further development throughout this academic year.

Yours

**Duncan Roberts**

