



July 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to you on behalf of the entire Governing Body to update you on a great year for Southway. It's been an amazing year for all at the school and, of course, we are finishing the year in such fabulous weather for the summer.

Investment in the school & school finances

Over the course of this last school year we have continued to invest heavily in improvement projects across the school, we have spent close to £30,000 this year on school projects including carpets, decoration, new Clevertouch TVs in the classrooms, new fire doors, relocating the ICT Suite to the LaRC with new furniture. This takes the total investment in school improvement projects to £135,700 over the last 5 years.

School finances are in excellent shape, which in such difficult times for schools is testament to the focus placed in this area over a number of years. The school is the envy of many schools in the local authority, some of whom are operating budget deficits. We have been managing school finances, using long term planning, for several years and this management and discipline by the leadership team is paying off by allocating precious funds to improve the learning environment and opportunities for our children.

Health & Safety and our new Premises Manager

In addition to the improvements within the school, we have invested time and funds in improving all health and safety aspects at the school. Our new Premises Manager, Gareth Kirby, has made a huge difference in improving the look and feel of the outside of the school as well as dealing and improving the conditions of the school for the health and safety of children, staff and visitors alike.

SATS performance

It's worth noting just how well the children performed during the SATS week. They were a total credit to the school and as the Governing Body we were very proud of them. The staff during this period, too, were all exemplary. The results are the best Southway has ever produced and demonstrates, again, the continual striving for improvement that characterises the governing body and staff of Southway.

Local Authority colleagues

We are continuously supported and challenged by our local authority colleagues and this last year was no different. During the course of the year we had feedback on the schools' progress from Senior Advisers as well as an external consultant, Maria Roberts. They were all very complimentary about the school and were able to provide some pointers for minor improvement.

Leadership in the locality and the county

What many of you may not know is the level of influence that our Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher are having across the locality & community. Mr Newbold is a member, alongside two other Headteachers, of the Mid-Sussex Area Improvement and Inclusion Board that supports schools identified as needing guidance and advice. He is also the Headteacher representative for the Burgess Hill school's Headteachers as well as a West Sussex mentor for newly appointed Headteachers. Mrs Denison is currently completing her NPQH (National Professional Qualification for Headship) and spent a term as the Acting Headteacher of another school.

Learning and achieving together





Headteacher: Mr P Newbold

Year 6

As noted above our year 6 children should be proud of their efforts in the SATS. For those of you who attended their end of year production "Aladdin Trouble", I hope you agree we should be very proud of their efforts in signing off from Southway. All of the year 6 staff also did a great job in making a production to remember for all, thank you for all involved. We are also grateful that the staff gave up their own time to make this happen.

I am sure you will join me in wishing all of our Year 6 children well as they head off to the various secondary schools. They will always be part of the Southway family and we look forward to hearing about their ongoing success in the future and welcome them back to visit us at any time.

Staff members - goodbye & good luck

At the end of this term, we will see several staff leaving us at Southway. We wish them all well for their future careers and thank them all for their huge contributions to our school. Good luck to all.

Governors

During the last school year we have had two new Governors joining our Governing Body; Helen Lewis and Mark Harding joined us in the last year and are making a positive difference on the team.

At the end of this term Paul Cartin, our Vice Chair of Governors, whose son Charlie is leaving the school, will resign from the GB. Paul joined the Governing Body in September 2011. He has been an integral part of driving the school forward with his ambition, insight and vision. We wish him and his family the best of luck in the future.

And finally...

Our school is successful and an amazing place as a result of the leadership, staff and the children. However, the ongoing support and input from parents & carers is a huge contributor. May I take this opportunity to thank you for this support. I also remind you that you can get even more involved in the school by joining our Governing Body. We are always on the look for new members of the team so please contact myself via the school office if you want to join the team here at Southway.

All that leaves me to say is that on behalf of the entire Governing Body, we wish you a great summer holiday and look forward to seeing you back in September for another great year at Southway.

Peter Izard
Chair of Governors

Learning and achieving together

