



## Governors Annual Statement

### Summer Term 2023

It's been another busy year at Old Park Primary School & Nursery, with so much to **celebrate**.

Our continued successes would not be possible if it weren't for the whole Old Park family, from the leadership team, the staff, the TAs, the catering team, the cleaning team, the site manager, the office staff and of course our children and their families/carers.

The Autumn term brought news of change for our school, we bid farewell to Mrs Machin and the news of Ms Haywood's retirement at the end of this year was shared.

The governing body worked alongside our staff, children and parents/carers to develop the advert details and information pack with the knowledge of what we all wanted from our new Headteacher. The interview process took place in the Spring Term and we successfully appointed Mr James Foster which again was something our children were involved in.

We were delighted to have secured ongoing funding support for our **In Harmony**. We are very committed to this programme as music is at the heart of the school and fundamental to the progress our children make both socially and academically. This year's folk music theme culminated in a fantastic Folk Festival on the school field which involved 500 children and young people performing music and dance. A number of former pupils still attend Nucleo orchestra and the Youth Ensemble. They performed to a packed audience at St Leonard's church and their talent was impressive. We are very proud that 2 former pupils are now studying music at university.

**Ofsted** visited in March which highlighted many of the strengths of our school and deemed our overall effectiveness as "Good". We were very pleased that the creativity, the family feel and the heart of the school was recognised.

As written in the report *"Creativity and community are at the heart of Old Park Primary. It is a happy, friendly school, where everyone is welcomed and valued as an individual. Pupils enjoy being in school. They value being able to learn a musical instrument and belonging to one of the many school orchestras. They make the most of the varied sporting activities on offer. Leaders have high ambitions for all pupils. This is matched by pupils' attitudes in their lessons."*

We received our **Gold Artsmark Award**, one of only 5 in Telford and Wrekin. This is a credit to the creativity and incredible talent of our staff and children. The assessors highlighted that The Arts are actively used to inspire learning across the curriculum. They commented that it is wonderful to see all the dance, music and art that is planned across school.

Since being appointed, Mr Foster has spent time in school getting prepared for September. We thank our team for working alongside him during this period. In the summer term we appointed Mr Parton as our **Assistant Headteacher** from September 2023 and support him in his personal development and drive to continue to support our children in his new role.

Recovery and tutoring funding have been used to run additional groups to help children catch up with any learning missed during the pandemic and prepare them for the phonic screening, the maths check and Y6 SATs. We are very grateful to staff for running these outside the school day and for children attending. We are very pleased that this year's results show the incredible progress we have made and Y6 results are above the national average overall.

**"Haywood Park"** Our 5G all-weather sports pitch has been constructed and we look forward to the opportunities this will bring for our children. A special thanks to Ms Sawbridge for all the hard work that has gone in to this project behind the scenes.

We cannot finish this year without Thanking Ms Haywood for the incredible dedication and leadership she has shown our school for the past 20 years. We wish her well for a long and happy retirement and a well-earned rest.

Change is always unnerving but as a Governing Body **we are excited about the future of Old Park Primary School** under the leadership of Mr Foster (Headteacher), Mrs Bebb (Deputy Headteacher) and Mr Parton (Assistant Headteacher) **and look forward to all the successes we will achieve together during the next academic year.**