



**Billingshurst Primary School**  
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Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to update you on the progress that has been made this term in the areas for improvement identified by Ofsted.

### Outcomes for Pupils

On Tuesday, the SATs results for year 6 were published and I am pleased to report that these show considerable progress in all areas of the curriculum. The outcomes for the end of KS2 are significantly above last year's results in all areas, with a particularly strong improvement in the percentage of pupils achieving Greater Depth. The results are now broadly in line with the national picture.

### KS2 (% of pupils meeting the Expected Standard and working at Greater Depth)

	<b>BPS</b> Expected Standard	<b>National</b> Expected Standard 2023	<b>BPS</b> Greater Depth	<b>National</b> Greater Depth 2022*
Reading	73%	73%	30%	28%
Writing	70%	71%	8%	13%
Maths	70%	73%	22%	23%

*\*Data for 2023 has not yet been published*

Our Key Stage 1 results have also improved dramatically and exceed last year's outcomes in all areas. Whilst there is still work to do in driving up the percentage of pupils working at Greater Depth, the percentage of pupils achieving the Expected Standard in KS1 is higher than the national average in 2022 across all core subjects.

### KS1 (% of pupils meeting the Expected Standard and working at Greater Depth)

	<b>BPS</b> Expected Standard	<b>National</b> Expected Standard 2022*	<b>BPS</b> Greater Depth	<b>National</b> Greater Depth 2022*
Reading	69%	67%	13.5%	18%
Writing	60%	58%	0%	8%
Maths	72%	68%	11%	15%

*\*2023 National Data for KS1 has not yet been published*

In addition to the end of key stage results, I am also pleased to report that 72% of pupils in year 1 passed the phonics screening and 72.5% of pupils in Early Years achieved a Good Level of Development. Whilst there is no published national data yet to compare against, in both cases this data is a significant improvement on 2022.

This data supports our own view that the school improvement work carried out post Ofsted has already had a significant impact.



In relation to the five specific areas for improvement identified by Ofsted, please find below some information regarding actions which have taken place since the inspection.

### **Safeguarding**

Just before the Easter break, we appointed Neil Matthews to the newly created post of Safeguarding Lead. Neil has extensive safeguarding experience, having been a Detective Inspector with the Metropolitan Police and holding a master's degree in child protection. We have also introduced a new safeguarding system to strengthen our monitoring of vulnerable pupils. The Local Authority reviewed our progress and reported very positively about both the new appointment and improved systems.

### **Reading**

As evidenced in the data reported above, there has been much progress in reading with the phonics scores increasing from 58% last year to 72% this year. Staff are continuing with regular training and children are assessed every 6 weeks, ensuring they are grouped by stage not age, thereby enabling every child to make accelerated progress. We will continue to focus on this area next year to ensure that our vision for 'every child a reader' is achieved.

### **Early Years**

This term, we have been supported in the development of our Early Years curriculum by engaging an outstanding practitioner from another school to work with our team to develop our practice. We have also appointed Emily Walker as an experienced Early Years leader to join our team in September to continue this work. The key measure for children at the end of Early Years is referred to as a 'Good Level of Development'. Children are assessed as having achieved a Good Level of Development if they have reached the expected standard within all Prime Areas as well as in the areas of literacy and mathematics. This year, 72.5% of pupils achieved a Good Level of Development at BPS compared with 52% last year. Whilst national data is not yet available for 2023, the national average in 2022 was 65.2%.

### **Special Educational Needs**

Our Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator, Theresa Alford, has been working with staff to ensure they have confidence in supporting all children in their class with additional needs. The Local Authority has also run two training sessions for staff. In the autumn term, we will also access an additional 10 days of support from the DfE to invest in improving this area of the school's work. Mrs Towner is returning to the school in October part-time and we have agreed that Mrs Alford will continue as a SENDCo to add additional capacity to this area of work. We would like to thank all those parents who shared their experiences with us; our improvement work in this area will continue to be a major focus for us in the new academic year.

### **Assessment**

We have continued our work on assessment, with an initial focus on English and Maths. This has been very effective in identifying gaps in learning to inform planning, teaching and interventions. Mr Timmins will be extending that work to other subjects when he returns in September.



I do hope you can see that we have been working extremely hard, and with pace, to make the improvements needed. We are incredibly proud of the staff and the progress that has been made so far and are also confident that this will continue in the new school year.

We wish all children leaving Billingshurst Primary School at the end of term the very best for their continued education at their new schools and look forward to welcoming a new cohort of children into Early Years in September. I very much hope that you have a wonderful summer holiday.

Yours sincerely

*Nicola Waters*

Nicola Waters  
Chair of Governors

*Helen Williamson*

Helen Williamson  
Headteacher