

A Letter from the Chair of Governors to Parents and Carers

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of another very successful and rewarding academic year at Spinfield School, I am delighted to take this opportunity to reflect on our progress, celebrate our achievements, and share important updates.

Celebrating Our Ofsted Report

This year in June, we were visited by Ofsted for an ungraded inspection—a moment that always brings both anticipation and reflection! I am delighted that the outcome was extremely positive. The inspectors highlighted our school's nurturing ethos, dedicated staff, and the strong partnerships we share with our community. They commented on the calm, purposeful atmosphere that exists throughout the school, and the high standards to which we hold ourselves and achieve.

The report paid tribute to the behaviour and attitudes of our pupils, noting how children are both eager to learn and kind to one another. The inspectors recognised our broad and ambitious curriculum, our inclusivity, and the many opportunities for enrichment that our children enjoy. Although the report identified **no** areas for improvement, we will never be complacent and will continue to drive continuous improvements through our School Development Plan and Curriculum Co-ordinator's Plan

This positive Ofsted outcome is a testament to the hard work of our staff, the support of our parents, and, most importantly, the enthusiasm and effort of our wonderful pupils.

Outstanding SAT Results

We are also celebrating remarkable achievements in this year's Key Stage 2 SATs. Our Year 6 pupils have excelled, with results significantly above national averages in reading, writing, and mathematics. This is a reflection not only of the children's dedication but also of the tireless efforts of our teachers and support staff, who consistently go above and beyond to ensure every child is supported to reach their full potential.

The progress made by all our pupils is truly impressive. I want to acknowledge the resilience and perseverance shown by our children, especially as they navigated the return to normality following the previous years of Covid disruption.

Ensuring our Special Events happen & our Fundraising Needs

I hope that you were aware of the presentation and discussion around the challenges we are experiencing as a school community. We discussed the challenges around the current structure of our Parent's Association, the challenges in finding volunteers to help and make our wonderful school events happen, like the very successful Camp Night held a few weeks ago, as well as our need to raise additional funds to enhance our children's education and close gaps on wider non-funded needs. It was an information sharing and discussion meeting looking at a number of options that you, the parent community, will vote on at the Parent Association AGM in September. An FAQ will be distributed to all parents soon and the PA AGM in September will be used as the forum to vote on the preferred way forward.

I want to take a moment and thank Julia Miles Griffiths and Shaun Leach for their leadership during this past year and am delighted and deeply appreciative that Alys Gallagher and Gemma Rasmussen, with children in Year One and Reception, have volunteered to lead our special events and fundraising for the academic year 25/26. I know they will enthusiastically embrace any new structure that is agreed after the AGM and will effectively organise the many willing helpers from our school community.

School Funding: Navigating Very Challenging Time

I must acknowledge the financial pressures facing all schools, including ours. Spinfield continues to operate with progressively tightening budgets. I want to assure you that we are working hard, alongside the Senior Leadership Team, to ensure our resources are managed prudently. However, the reality is that we are operating below the optimum resource level.

Multi Academy Trust Research

You will be aware from previous communications that over the last two years we have carried out detailed investigations into a selection of Multi Academy Trusts. (MATs). And from our research and meetings with the CEOs and their teams, we have since narrowed that to a short list of three that meet our specific criteria.

Of special interest to us not least because of its locality to Marlow, is the Marlow Education Trust (MET) and we are pleased to note that the MET continues to make many significant improvements and positive progress. The new CEO is Kevin Ford the ex-headmaster of Great Marlow School (GMS), they have recruited a number of new key direct reports and have refreshed the governing board. Importantly, they

continue to grow and expand having recently announced in June that GMS has now joined the MET.

With such momentum and after detailed research into the process to pursue formally the possibility of joining a MAT and the MET in particular, a resolution was passed unanimously at the Full Governing Board meeting on Wednesday, July 16th to undertake the first phase known as Due Diligence. The Due Diligence process with MET will start in the autumn and we will keep you updated with progress.

Excellent Staff Retention

One of Spinfield's greatest strengths remains its dedicated staff team. I am pleased to report that our staff retention this year has been excellent, allowing us to maintain stability and continuity for our pupils. Our teaching and support staff are the heart of Spinfield, and their passion for education, commitment to professional development, and care for our children are evident in all they do.

Safeguarding and Health & Safety: Our Ongoing Commitment

The safety and wellbeing of our pupils remain our highest priorities. Governors, senior leaders, and staff take our safeguarding responsibilities extremely seriously, and we continue to review and strengthen our policies and practices. Regular training, robust procedures, and a vigilant culture mean we are well-placed to respond swiftly and effectively to any concerns.

Looking Ahead

As we look forward to the new academic year, we remain ambitious for Spinfield's future. Despite the significant financial challenges, we are not discouraged because the Spinfield community has always pulled together and worked together to make this place extra special.

I encourage you to read our Ofsted report in full, celebrate our children's achievements, and consider how you might contribute to the ongoing life of our school — joining as a Governor, becoming a class rep, volunteering at our special school events and fundraisers, or simply sharing your feedback and ideas.

On behalf of the Governing Body, I would like to thank every one of you for your ongoing support, encouragement, and belief in Spinfield School.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable summer holiday. We look forward to welcoming everyone back for another exciting and no doubt challenging year in September.

With my best wishes

Keith Spence

Chair of Governors