

## **Chair of Governors Report to Parents and Carers Autumn Term 2024**

Dear Parents and Carers

We have decided to include a governor's update to you in the end of term school newsletter. This replaces the governor report to parents and careers and hopefully is a more succinct and digestible document.

### **OUR SCHOOL**

Spinfield continues to perform exceptionally well underpinned by our amazing staff, wonderful children, dedicated Parents' Association and highly supportive community.

Our school is over subscribed which is incredibly important to maximise our ever-tightening funds and an excellent position considering many primary schools in the area are not at capacity. Every child attracts £3,665 of funding each year. Primary schools in the area are in direct competition and our performance, effective marketing and excellent open days have delivered this essential position.

Academic results continue to be upper decile, significantly better than national and county results. We provide a very broad and rich curriculum with the aim of nurturing the joy of learning to help children succeed not just in education but in life. We nurture and develop the whole child by being part of a community that works on academic, social, and emotional development. We have fun while learning because that enhances the learning. These are the hallmarks of Spinfield.

### **FINANCES**

In the six years I have been a governor every year the budget has become tighter. In my early years we managed to fully resource the school and carry a small surplus. This has always been significantly supported by the incredible work and contribution of the Parents' Association.

This year the tightening trend has continued and we are working hard to end the financial year with no deficit. We have learned over recent years a deficit results in the Local Authority demanding a reduction in staffing which would obviously have a significant negative impact on our children. After Christmas we will be planning for academic year 2025/2026 and the trends clearly indicate that we will have a very demanding challenge.

## PARENTS' ASSOCIATION (PA)

The parents Association makes an incredible and essential contribution to our school. Maidlin Spence and Beth Kirkness did an incredible job and we are so very grateful. We are delighted that Julia Miles-Griffiths and Shaun Leach have stepped in to continue the great work.

The constitution for the PA is to provide and assist in the provision of such facilities or items for the education and welfare of the children at the school not normally provided by statutory funds. I'm sure that you'll see from the table below the incredible contribution the PA have made to our school over the last year – it brings incredible benefit to our children.

Forest school	Five new interactive whiteboards	Leases, licenses and subscriptions	Teacher iPads	VR day	Entrance sign-in system	Hand dryers x 8	Wellness hub window stickers
Glockenspeils	Dan the skipping man	Science day	Whole school Olympics Day	Adventure Day	British Sign Language Course (September)	WOW days/trips	Outdoor equipment for EYFS
Multi-use outdoor play building for EYFS	Playground storage	Playground sports/play equipment	Ice cream van	Year 6 contribution	Stationery supplies	186 Atlases	Pond maintenance
Christmas lunch	Spinfield football kit	Spinfield tshirts	Tombolas	Wellness Hub restock and Classroom boxes	Pens for pen licenses	Maths resources	Maths Workshop
Toys for EYFS outdoor learning	Forest School Clay and tarpaulin	30 sets of headphones and adaptors	PA stamp for PA donated items	KS2 set <u>text books</u> (158 books)	Keyboards	Times tables poppits	Monster phonics books
		Wooden obstacle course	Middy supervisor	Norden Farm trip	Art supplies		

The Christmas fair was a great success despite the dreadful weather! It was a brilliant example of the incredible PA and all its fabulous helpers and the excellent support and enthusiasm of our entire school community.

## MOVE TO AN ACADEMY

Our Academy project team has robustly delivered our initial objectives - we have established detailed selection criteria for evaluating a move to a Multi Academy Trust (MAT) and we have engaged in in-depth discussions with the CEOs of seven selected MATs all within a half hour drive. From careful analysis we have identified the MATs which we could enter due diligence with. Marlow Education Trust with Kevin Ford as the new CEO, is making encouraging progress and we have an ongoing dialogue with them.

Due diligence will be carried out with two potential MATs and it is a very important, detailed and time-consuming process. We have had significant changes in the governing board this academic year outlined below and we have decided to delay entering due diligence for six months.

### **Governing Board**

This term, I was very sad to see three governors resign -Tom Ronan, Frank Schoofs and Richard McCandless. They all made a great contribution for which I am very grateful.

We have been very fortunate that David Hollywood, previously a governor for many years and Chair of Resources and Chairman, has agreed to return as Chair of Resources and Bob Houghton and Rob Heerdegen have joined as new governors.

There are still vacancies on the governing board so if you or anyone you know is interested in what is a most rewarding role please contact me.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me. My email address is:

[chairofgovernors@spinfieldschool.co.uk](mailto:chairofgovernors@spinfieldschool.co.uk)

My best wishes to you for a very happy Christmas and a happy and successful 2025

Keith Spence  
Chair of Governors