



Governors Update

July 2015

It's been a while since our last update and there's been a lot going on:

Fantastic academic achievement

Throughout the school our children continue to perform extremely well - thanks to the high standard of teaching we have in the school, as well as the hard work and enthusiasm of our pupils!

- 91% of our Year 1 children passed their phonics-screening test (vs 74% nationally). This is an exceptional achievement!
- 2014's year 6 end of key stage 2 tests were outstanding once again - this time with a 100% of pupils achieving the target Level 4 or better in English, Reading *and* Maths, and 95% in writing. Please also note that a very good proportion of our children are also achieving Level 5's (this is the expected performance level for a 14 year old secondary school child).
- Most importantly, the progress (rather than the absolute attainment) our pupils are making is fantastic, putting us into the top 20% of schools nationally in terms of performance.

You can see more information about our pupils' key stage 2 test results for the previous 3 years at <http://dashboard.ofsted.gov.uk/dash.php?urn=100584>.

New curriculum and new ways of assessing our children from September 2015

As part of the reforms to the National Curriculum, the current system of 'levels' used to report children's attainment and progress is being changed to give teachers greater flexibility in the way that they plan and assess pupils' learning.

This summer was the last time children in Year 2 and 6 will be assessed according to those levels take the SAT exams and from September 2015 the whole school will be following the 'new curriculum', which sets higher expectations of our children. (You can read more about this here: <http://www.theschoolrun.com/primary-national-curriculum-2014>).

The programmes of study within the new National Curriculum set out expectations at the end of each key stage, and schools will be free to develop a curriculum relevant to

their pupils that teaches this content. The curriculum must include an assessment system, which enables schools to check what pupils have learned and whether they are on track to meet expectations at the end of the key stage, and to report regularly to parents. Sudbourne leadership team have been working hard alongside the broader group of 'Cluster Schools' in our area, to develop a robust assessment system to achieve these goals. More will be explained in due course.

Focus for 2014/5

The strategic focus for this school year was 'Building on Success'. Key areas of focus continue to be:

- Writing (to help build the momentum and passion for writing started last year)
- New curriculum (to ensure that it's creative and that we have a very good assessment process in place)
- School expansion (*see later note*).

Listening to you

Thank you parents for responding to our annual Parent Survey - this year we had 145 responses. Since we started this survey 4 years ago, the number of responses has been steadily climbing (up from 78 in 2010) and has become a key source of information on how the school is doing. It is really important to us that we get your feedback on how you think how your child is getting on and where we can improve what we do.

We conduct an annual parent survey, but please be aware that you can share your views on the school at any time via the following government website:

parentview.ofsted.gov.uk. Please do share any thoughts you have positive or negative - Ofsted use this information, as part of their inspections and it's a handy reference for us too.

Parent Questionnaire - feedback

Overall we had extremely positive feedback from the last Parent Survey. Everyone (100%) who completed the survey felt that their children enjoy coming to the school and nearly everyone agrees that the children like the trips we offer and enjoy the after school activities.

In terms of your thoughts on opportunities for learning at Sudbourne, we again found the vast majority are very happy with their children's progress and feel well informed about this.

You also feel that the school is well led, and you tell us that your children feel safe and secure at Sudbourne. You also feel that the school communicates well with you, offers plenty of chances to be involved with school life and takes into account your views and suggestions.

While we received very positive feedback on all areas we questioned you about - with 9 in ten people (88%) answering positively to each of the questions we posed - there were a few areas we have decided could use a stronger focus.

One of the messages coming through from the written comments was that some of you are unclear about the variety of computer technologies/equipment your child has access to, so here is some further information:

- Computing and technology encompasses every part of modern life and Sudbourne believes that it's important that our children are taught how to use these tools and more importantly, how to use them safely. We are very lucky in having a lot of modern and up to date equipment for the pupils to use for example; iPads, digital cameras, Beebots, Probots, Easispeaks, video cameras, animation kits. Webcams and digital microscopes are used to enhance the teaching and learning of computing and technology across the curriculum.
- Classes have weekly sessions in our computing suite. They develop skills such as coding, de-bugging, blogging and creating video animations - you can even see some of the pupils Tweeting on our Twitter account!
- We have a talented team of digital leaders who have been recruited from Year 5, to support the learning of computing and technology at Sudbourne. Their role is to assist the use of technology across the school with tech support, training and professional development for pupils and staff.

Some of you also indicated you were unsure how the school seeks the views of the children. Rest assured the views of the children are important to us are sought and often acted upon in the context of a wide range of issues from how the playground should be resourced through to general improvements to the school.

We seek the views of children in a number of ways including:

- An annual Pupil questionnaire (not EYFS!) once a year - done in June 2015.
- School Council weekly meetings with class to get feedback/suggestions for school improvement/projects, etc.
- Approximately once a long term and certainly at year end, Mr Stevanovic meets with KS2 children and takes suggestions for school improvement plan.

Ideas from the children we have already implemented include having a music teacher, more iPads and more PE and we will continue to take their feedback into consideration.

Finally we also noticed that some people were unsure (they answered don't know) on whether our school handles bullying effectively.

- While this response could well be because your children haven't experienced bullying at Sudbourne, which is clearly positive, we have taken a close look at our policy.

- We think it is important to recognise that bullying happens in all schools good and bad: what matters is how it is dealt with. Our new anti-bullying policy aims to strengthen and clarify our position on this and as always we will be keeping a close eye on things. The most up to date policy can be read on the school website.

A note on your views and the expansion

As you may also recall, in June 2013 approval was given for Sudbourne to expand to a 3-form entry school. Lambeth council are still in the process of finalising the logistics (as a land swap is involved so we can get the site on Sudbourne Road).

Whilst nothing is concrete yet, the parent questionnaire findings potentially have special resonance to us this year - and your comments will provide useful input into the expansion process if it goes ahead. What we heard is that you value very much the fact Sudbourne is a small, friendly, inclusive community school with happy students and excellent teaching.

These are aspects we value too and will particularly bear in mind as something to focus on retaining should the school expand. You also told us how much you value the mixture of backgrounds from which children come from - and several of you praised the work of the PTA.

We have heard your requests for separate boys and girls changing, more bike racks, more after school clubs for infants and more playground equipment. From an educational provision perspective there is a big 'bucket list' for us to consider. To name a few, there were several requests for more access to sport (more football and karate were especially mentioned), art (messy art and art taught by specialists), languages, drama and music (access to instruments, teaching and orchestras and groups). Some of these areas we are already working on: Look out for a new music teacher next term.

Who are Sudbourne Primary Schools Governors?

Parent Governors (elected by parents)

- Ingrid Holmes (Parent of Arlo, year 2)
- Paul Gill (Parent of Cara, year 3 and Jennifer, year 1)
- Sandra Reid (Parent of Tannelle, year 6 and Tashanna, year 3)

Head Teacher (automatically entitled to be a governor)

- Milan Stevanovic

Local Authority Governor

- **Hannah Sheehan** (Local resident, works on policy for the Department for Education)

Staff Governor (elected by staff)

- Sophia Henderson (Deputy Head)

Co-opted Governors (elected by the Governing body)

- Cynthia Winifred (Local resident and ex-pupil)
- Penny Porter-Mill (Cluster Coordinator and parent of Rory, year 5)
- James Lai (Local resident and Architect)
- Nicola Bradbury (Parent of Mieke, year 3/Planning Lawyer)
- Sarah Blakeston (Parent of Sam, Year 1/Senior Management and Finance experience)
- Shane Carmichael (Local resident, member of Acre Lane Residents Association)

If you have any general comments about the direction Sudbourne is taking, or how the Governing Body can improve things for children, parents and carers please write to us care of the school office or email governors@sudbourne.com. Specific queries or comments to do with you or your child should be directed to your child's class teacher.

Keeping you informed

Finally, school website at www.sudbourne.com continues to grow. Please let us know if you have any thoughts or suggestions to help improve it. You can also follow what is happening at school on our Twitter - do follow us on Sudbourne School @SudbourneSchool and @Sudbourne Child. There are lots of tweets about this years School Journey and you have a look you can see exactly what our Year 6s got up to!

