

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July, 2017

Dear Parents of Floreat Wandsworth,

As our school's second year draws to a close, we can reflect that Floreat Wandsworth is lucky to enjoy many of the elements that make a successful school, where every child and family can flourish.

First and perhaps foremost, a school must deliver the best teaching and learning possible for every child. Our first external performance data are now reflecting the application of the outstanding Floreat Wandsworth teaching staff to this priority: Year 1 children sat the first year of Phonics screening during Summer Term, and an amazing 94% of children passed. Last year, the national average was 83% and Wandsworth average was 85%.

But education is certainly wider than only core subject learning. In the Autumn Term, the Governors surveyed parents at Parent and Teacher Meetings, asking what they thought was best about the school, and what could be improved in the future. The top responses to what is best focused on the driven, passionate and caring staff under the strong leadership of Mr Custance; and the welcoming, happy and positive atmosphere throughout the school. The Floreat ethos emphasizes the importance of always putting the children first. As a Governor regularly visiting the school, I see this principle applied constantly, and I'm glad it is evident to parents as well. I am always impressed by the results in the children during my visits: they are confident, engaged, and clearly love learning at Floreat.

Parents also celebrated the inclusive and collaborative community surrounding the school. Nowhere is this better exemplified than by the Friends of Floreat Wandsworth (FOFW) parent group. The Governors are constantly amazed by the wonderful events organized by FOFW, and their fundraising achievements for the school. I have personally greatly enjoyed events over the last two years such as the Auction, Quiz Night and the recent Garden Social. Over £50,000 has been raised from these events and other efforts for the school's benefit since the school opened. I know I speak for the school team and all of my fellow Governors in thanking FOFW for their tremendous efforts, not only in fundraising but also in direct contributions such as the fabulous community garden and playground raised beds.

With respect to what could be improved in future, many parents focused on the offering of sport, extra-curricular and community experiences outside of the school. The school team, Governors and Floreat management heard this message loud and clear. Expanding the extent and variety of this provision is a key objective as the school grows, and the first intake children themselves grow.

Specific steps have already been taken. FOFW has again contributed actively in this area, purchasing an excellent climbing frame for the school hall. This year, we are also in receipt of PE and Sports Premium funds, a grant provided specifically to invest in the school's PE and sport offering, which is paid based on the number of pupils in Year One to Year Six. For the year 2016-17 we received £8265, which has been used to coach the teachers in the teaching of gymnastics and tennis, as well as purchasing physical resources for Big Play and PE equipment appropriate to the level and needs of the children. School trips have been taken to London Zoo, The Horniman Museum and Windsor Castle for example, and these experiences will continue to be an important part of enriching the varied curriculum Floreat offers. Governors will maintain emphasis on continuing to encourage development of the school's extra-curricular provision, as a strategic focus.

So lastly, let me consider the Governors themselves. As a Multi-Academy Trust (or MAT), Floreat Education Academies Trust (FEAT) is led by a Board of Trustees to whom the CEO Janet Hilary reports on management of the three schools within the MAT group. Each of the schools has a Local Advisory Committee (or LAC) – the equivalent of a local governing body in a standalone school. I chair that LAC, ably supported by Vice Chair Camilla Brough. We and our colleagues in the LAC are the Governors of Floreat Wandsworth, serving on a voluntary basis to reinforce the school.

The role of the Governors is to oversee the school's strategic direction in pursuit of its objectives to constantly improve, and to hold true to the Floreat ethos. We are expected to both support the school leadership, but also to scrutinize and question constructively. Whilst certain issues and decisions in the life of the school are escalated to our involvement, we are not expected to be part of the day-to-day management work – that is entirely the role of Mr Custance and his team.

The LAC holds termly meetings with Mr Custance as a group, and individual Governors also meet separately with the school leadership team on a termly basis to analyse the provision and progress made by all children. Starting next school year, we will be assigning specific Governors to each year group so that they have a very thorough understanding of that cohort that can be drawn upon when evaluating the overall context. We also visit the school frequently for focused meetings and observations concerning particular aspects, such as Safeguarding, SEN and Inclusion or Finance, or simply to further familiarize ourselves more with the team, teaching and the classrooms.

The Governors are as determined as the school's parent community to contribute in every way we can to the success of Floreat Wandsworth. If you would like to know more about our work, we are always happy to discuss. We are also establishing more transparency with the children of the school. Pupils attended the LAC group meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> July to share their learning with us, and we intend for Governors to attend an assembly early next term to explain to the children more about what we do. We hope to be one more positive force putting the children at the heart of all we do.

Looking forward to next term, there is much to be excited about.

When Floreat Wandsworth's third year begins in September, we will have 210 children on the roll, roughly equivalent to a full one-form entry primary school. Applications for places to Nursery and Reception were even more over-subscribed than last year. Our sparkling school facility is filling rapidly. The Rainbow School children will leave our school at the end of next term, moving to their new and refurbished purpose-designed buildings (though some of Rainbow's office function will continue to lease surplus space here for a period). We will be joined by new teaching staff, including new Assistant Headteacher for KS1 Miss Burke (alongside Miss Goodrem, who has also been recognised for her talent, dedication and superb year with promotion to Assistant Headteacher for the Foundation Stage). Most exciting of all, we will be joined by the new children, and every one of us can do something to help every one of them to flourish here in the years ahead.

We very much hope you and your children have a lovely summer and, for the children at least, a well-deserved rest!

Paul White  
Chair of Governors