



Lady Boswell's C.E. (Aided) Primary School

Learning Together  Learning For Life

Co- Headteachers: Mrs Hannah Pullen BA Hons, PGCE (NPQH) and Mrs Sharon Saunders B.Ed Hons (NPQH)

Plymouth Drive, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 3RW



01732 452851



headteacher@ladyboswells.kent.sch.uk or office@ladyboswells.kent.sch.uk

19 July 2024

Dear parents, carers, governors and staff

We write to you today, in place of our weekly Newsletter, with a round-up of the year and a brief glimpse into the coming academic year.

2025 will see the 350th anniversary of the inception of Lady Boswell's School; what an extraordinary achievement this will be. We are sure that Lady Margaret Boswell would be incredibly proud of the lasting legacy that she has provided for children across the town and across so many years. As we approach the start of 2025, we look forward to sharing with you our plans to mark this very special anniversary. As the leaders of this School, we are conscious that we are simply the current guardians for this very important Sevenoaks institution. As we play our part in the Lady Boswell's School journey, it is our role to not only celebrate our rich history, but to continue to drive the School forward as a progressive place of learning within a strong Christian ethos.

This letter is an opportunity for us to look back over the last one of those 350 years, and to reflect on our many blessings, to express so many well-earned thanks and to share the results of our SATs (Standardised Assessment Tests) results for the year.

For so many, the start of the summer holidays offers a welcome period of relaxation and enjoyment. We are, of course, mindful of those working parents, for whom this presents a juggle. We also think of those in our community who face difficult times whether this be physically, emotionally or financially. Please continue to hold them all in your thoughts and prayers.

ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Firstly, we would like to express our pride, this year, in having been placed 209th, out of the 16,783 primary schools across the country, in the Sunday Times 'Parent Power' List 2024. This ranking reflects the School's commitment to offer every child a carefully sequenced, knowledge-rich curriculum, designed to inspire a lifelong love of learning.

Never ones to rest on our laurels, we continue to urge the School forward and aim for academic excellence. We are delighted to share the following results with you, from the recent external examinations.

KS1

Year 1 Phonics Check	Lady Boswell's 2024	National Average 2023*
% Pupils at reaching the expected level	90%	79%

Year 2 SATs		Lady Boswell's 2024	National Average 2023**
Reading	% Pupils reaching the expected level	91.5%	68%
	% Pupils exceeding the expected level	55%	19%
Writing	% Pupils reaching the expected level	81.5%	60%
	% Pupils exceeding the expected level	35.0%	8%
Maths	% Pupils reaching the expected level	86.5%	70%
	% Pupils exceeding the expected level	52%	16%

KS2

Year 6 SATs		Lady Boswell's 2024-	National Average
Reading	% Pupils reaching the expected level	95.3%	74%
	% Pupils exceeding the expected level	63%	29% (2023)***
	Average Point Score	109.8	105
SPAG	% Pupils reaching the expected level	87.5%	72%
	% Pupils exceeding the expected level	56.2%	30% (2023)***
	Average Point Score	109.8	105
Writing	% Pupils reaching the expected level	90.6%	72%
	% Pupils exceeding the expected level	34.4%	13% (2023)***
Maths	% Pupils reaching the expected level	85.9%	73%
	% Pupils exceeding the expected level	53%	24% (2023)***
	Average Point Score	108.7	104

* Please note that the 2024 national average phonic score has not been published yet.

** No national data will be released this year as KS1 SATS are no longer statutory

*** 2024 Greater Depth scores not yet published

These achievements are a testament to the relentless hard work of our children and staff, who have demonstrated exceptional dedication and commitment. Our innovative and outstanding curriculum has played a pivotal role in fostering an engaging and dynamic learning environment, encouraging creativity, critical thinking, and a passion for knowledge. Our thanks must also go to you as parents for all of the support that you provide the school and your children to enable them to achieve their academic potential. Congratulations and thank you to everyone in our Lady Boswell's family for another remarkable year of success and excellence!

LEAVERS, JOINERS AND STAFFING

Today's Leavers' Service was a very special and poignant event, offering thanksgiving, celebration and reflection. With another generation of children moving forward to secondary school, it is always an emotional time for students, staff and parents. We are incredibly proud of our Year 6 children; what a privilege it has been to watch them grow and flourish. We send them off with our love and prayers.

Following our recent Newsletters, we confirm that the following members of staff will also be leaving us next week to start new chapters of their lives: Mrs Sara Johnson, Miss Victoria Johnson, Miss Abigail Rea, Mrs Alison Saunders and Mrs Ceri Wild. We also express our thanks to our Sports Coach, Paul Putland, who finishes with us this term. The impact that each of them has had on the lives of our pupils, and the functioning of the School, cannot be overstated. We thank them all for their kindness, commitment and hard work, and will keep them in our prayers as they all start a new phase in their lives.

Miss Hollie Cossell and her fiancé, Richard, are looking forward to a very special summer tying the knot. Miss Cossell will return to School in September as Mrs Guard. We know that you will join us in wishing them both happiness for their special day and for the future.

It has been so exciting, in recent weeks, to open the Acorn and Chestnut doors to welcome our new Year R children, and their parents, for the coming academic year. Our current Year 5 children can't wait to meet their Year R buddies and launch what always proves to be a very special bond and friendship.

As well as welcoming our new Year R children in September, we are also excited to be joined by the following new members of staff: Mrs Debbie Barnett (TA), Miss Janine Brown (Sports Enrichment Lead), Mrs Catherine Camp (TA), Mrs Rebecca Hancock (TA), Mrs Geraldine Hayden (Breakfast and After School Club Practitioner), Mrs Sarah Hunter (HR Administration Assistant) and Mrs Jennifer Inwood (Office Administrator).

With a strong School tradition of training teachers, we are proud that Mr Will Allen and Miss Emily James will be starting on that journey and completing their teacher training with us. It has been a pleasure to have had Miss Amy McDowall train with us this year; as she starts her role as Class Teacher in a local school, we know that she has a glowing future.

CURRICULUM AND ENRICHMENT

We are proud to be able to continue to offer every child a broad curriculum, enhanced through a wealth of exciting experiences.

Within the School environs, our children have enjoyed workshops covering the Ancient Greeks, Egyptians, Romans and the era of the dinosaurs. They have studied the Great Fire of London, Black History and marked the Lunar New Year. Our older children have also engaged in some important workshops in preparation for their onwards journey to secondary school.

As ever, children and staff are always excited to go beyond the School boundaries and venture out into the wider world. Again, this year, our Years 5 and 6 have both enjoyed outward bound and team building trips at Grosvenor Hall and Overstrand, in Norfolk. Curriculum-linked trips have seen our children visiting a huge variety of venues including museums, aquariums, castles, cathedrals, gurdwaras, synagogues, zoos, churches, theatres, shops and even the Post Office.

Our annual STEM Week brought a world of challenge and excitement to the School. This year, this special event was centred around the Bible verse 'Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others' 1 Peter 4:10-11. Discussions highlighted diversity in the scientific world and the work of professionals within the world of science, technology and maths. Attention was captivated through a number of popular explosive experiments some including Alka seltzer tablets, others using exploding elephant toothpaste and one resulting in a shower of ping pong balls. Second in popularity to explosions, is always sticky, hands-on mess! The creation of slime and oobleck was incredibly popular and experiments involving Gummy Bears and Skittles also went down well. Other investigations included engineering challenges, shadow puppetry, inter-galactic travel, wildlife rescue, pond dipping, forensics, circuitry and data analysis. What a jam-packed week of inspiration it was.

We are extremely fortunate to benefit from the outreach work of local independent schools, and would like to express our thanks, in particular, to Sevenoaks School and Walthamstow Hall School for offering us a variety of workshops many focussed on music, art and STEM.

January saw the whole School enjoying 'Book Fortnight' with the aim of firing up every child's passion for books, and showing them the vistas that this can open up. Book swaps, inter-house book quizzes, author visits, poetry assemblies and reading campfires were amongst the many opportunities on offer. Across the year, children have continued to be amused by our wonderful parent 'Surprise Readers'; thank you for making this engaging experience possible. Thank you, too, to those of you who so kindly supported our Travelling Book Fair; this has allowed us to replenish and extend the choice of books in both our KS1 and KS2 libraries, as well as within the classroom.

As ever, we are keen to mark special national and international awareness days. This year we have enjoyed involvement in National Poetry Day, Odd Socks Day, National Anti-Bullying Day, National Road Safety Week, Sign Language Week, Children's Mental Health Week, Safer Internet Day, World Book Day and Earth Day. All of the events provide important educational opportunities for the children.

In stages across the spring and summer, many of our Year 5 children completed their KCC Bikeability training. Completely levels 1 and 2 involves learning some basics of bicycle maintenance, road safety skills and sees them all gaining confidence.

CHRISTIAN LIFE

Each month we focus on one of our School values. Each week, through our worship, we share a particular Bible passage related to these values. We continue to enjoy whole School worship and a weekly celebration assembly. We are grateful to many members of the local clergy who join us to lead the children in worship. The Christian calendar leads us in reflection and thanksgiving marking harvest, Advent, the start of Lent, Easter, Mothering Sunday and Pentecost. Alongside this, we mark Christmas with a KS2 Carol Service and, this year, our younger children marked Christmas with their nativities, 'It's a Baby' and 'The Sleepy Shepherd'. Further worship sees us giving thanks for the joy of friendship, focussing on the friendship developed between our Year R children and their Year 6 buddies, marking Remembrance and saying 'farewell' to our leavers.

FOREST SCHOOL

With the luxury of our beautiful School site, we have, this year, expanded our Forest School provision. With Forest School accredited staff members, we have offered regular sessions for a number of our year groups. Whatever the weather brings, the children are always keen to take part in these exciting sessions, in the process learning to manage risk, develop problem-solving skills and enjoy self-discovery. In the coming year, we will continue to offer these formal sessions for four year groups, with informal trips to the Forest School area being an option for all.

MUSIC AND THE ARTS

This year we have continued to develop our provision in music and the arts. Our Year 2 children have been, within class, learning the ocarina, with Years 3 and 4 learning recorders and Year 5 the ukulele. As you will imagine this has created a lot of 'sound' and even more fun! We were thrilled to offer many of our musicians the opportunity to perform at our Spring Concert. This was a real success and highlighted the real talent that we have within School. This week, it has been a pleasure to host an informal music concert which allowed our beginner musicians to have their first taste of performance.

The Young Voices concert is a biennial treat for many of our older children. This year 67 of our children visited the O2 arena to join the 'largest choir in the world'. It was an awe-inspiring experience for the children and watching family members.

The Orchestra, KS1 and KS2 choirs have continued to flourish and have enjoyed performing at the Christmas and summer fair and in School assemblies. Our thanks, too, to our peripatetic teachers whose pupils have provided the whole School with some enjoyable music assemblies at the start of the day.

A real highlight of the year is the School summer performance by our Year 5 and 6 children at The Stag Theatre. Anyone present will attest to the fact that, last week, the children delivered a most extraordinarily polished and confident performance of Beauty & The Beast. Our thanks to the children and staff that worked so hard to bring this story to the big stage.

SPORT

Lady Boswell's children have always loved the excitement that sporting challenge brings.

Inter-house competition is always a favourite and teaches the children life-lessons in how to handle victory and cope with defeat. This year, the inter-house events have encompassed tag rugby, hockey, cross country, tennis, football, rounders, netball, Tri-Golf, kwik cricket and swimming.

Our Sports Days offered a carousel of events and were extremely popular with both competitors and spectators. This new format was a great success, allowing the children greater involvement than in previous years and we look forward to carrying this forward to future Sports Days.

In addition to our Sports Days, our KS2 children, having completed their allocated swimming lessons, enjoyed fun and competition through a Year 3 Fun Swim and a Year 4 – 6 Swimming Gala.

The fixtures diary has, as ever, been packed with inter-school competition. We have competed in local fixtures in basketball, football, netball, tag rugby, kwik cricket, tennis, Boccia, hockey and infant agility, with our dancers proudly showcasing their skills at Love2Dance. As a part of the district sporting offer, this year, Lady Boswell's was proud to host the District Swimming Gala at Sevenoaks Leisure Centre.

With very many successes, and in particular, our football and netball teams succeeding to become District League champions, our display shelves are positively sagging under the weight of the silverware.

We are incredibly proud to be able to provide such a rich curriculum, alongside a wealth of extra-curricular enrichment. We aim to inspire and imbue every child with new passions and give them the opportunity to try new things and broaden their horizons.

CLUBS

School Clubs and 'Activities Extra' Clubs continue to offer our children a huge variety of extra-curricular opportunities, from Lego to lacrosse, cross country to coding, dance to drawing and Bible stories to ball games. We thank the Lady Boswell's staff for bringing their interests and passions to share with the children. As ever, we continue to look to extend the options available to all age groups.

WELLBEING

With the wellbeing of our community being of the utmost importance to us, we were proud and delighted, in January, to have been awarded the Wellbeing Award for Schools. This was granted in recognition of the exceptional work we do to support the wellbeing of our School community.

We have continued to use the RULER 'toolkit' to help develop the children's emotional intelligence and, this year, adding further strings to our bow, we have also implemented the 'Thrive' programme. With three accredited practitioners, and with a system based in neuroscience and on theoretical child-based developmental theory, we have been able to introduce this scheme which aims at supporting social and emotional development. We feel that this has had a tangible impact across all year groups. As part of our ongoing focus on wellbeing, Ms Anna Pullen is training to be a Family Liaison Officer (FLO) and will be available from next term for four mornings each week should you need any support.

To enhance our wellbeing provision further, at the end of 2023, we were selected to be the Sevenoaks Primary School's Wellbeing Hub, supported by an NHS appointed Emotional Wellbeing team. This team has delivered some very valuable workshops to both parents and children across a wide range of subjects, from anxiety and autism to transition and resilience. We thank team members, Ellie, Lucy and Megan for their support; the partnership has proved a big success and the team plan to provide an enhanced service in the coming academic year.

THE ORCHARD BREAKFAST AND AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

Our Breakfast and After School Club continues to offer a superb service to our families. The children enjoy fun, friendship, challenge and delicious freshly-prepared meals created by our cook, Ms Carlo. Head Gardeners, Mrs Sally Goodman and Mrs Caroline Smith, and their team of green-fingered pupils, enjoy growing a wonderful array of produce in the School garden. This is often shared with the Orchard and results in Ms Carlo creating some wonderful new recipes. With a creative and imaginative team of practitioners, the children often involve themselves in creative projects, often linking to the School curriculum. The introduction of a Film Makers Club for some of the older children has been a real hit with many new skills being learnt along the way.

PTA

With a need, within School, to tighten our belts even further, the funds raised by our PTA are key to the enhancement and enrichment of the children's time in School. We are deeply grateful to each of the PTA members for their commitment and hard work, in particular, those individuals who have taken on the responsibility of leading particular events, such as the Christmas Fair, Spring Ball or Summer Fair. A special thank you, however, goes to Mrs Rebecca Rushton who has, alongside the Chair, played a pivotal role in steering the Committee.

This year, our amazing PTA have delivered an exciting array of events, offering something for everyone. These include Festive Film Night, Christmas Market, Quiz Night, Spring Ball, Mother's Day Pop-Up Shop, Father's Day Pop-Up Shop, Break the Rules Day, Summer Fair and last week's Discos

Having raised a staggering amount across the year, we know that the PTA plan to write to you regarding their fundraising drive for the coming year, and to outline where they plan to allocate the funds that you have all played a part in raising. They have already agreed to fund the purchase of a new class set of Ipads, together with a charging trolley. They have also agreed to fund the functioning of Forest School in the coming year. We are currently discussing with them a possible rolling programme to complete much-needed upgrades to classroom furniture. We thank you for supporting the PTA in all their endeavours, benefiting every child in School, both today and in the future.

The Committee would welcome new members, and anyone joining can offer as little or as much of their time as they wish to. To find out more about how you can be a part of this fundraising team, please email ladyboswellspta@googlemail.com.

LOOKING OUTWARDS

As ever, we have been proud to work with the Lady Boswell's community to support our friends at FOM (Farming for Orphans in Mozambique). Our thanks for your generosity in making donations at harvest, Christmas and Easter times.

Beyond FOM, our School Council have, this year, taken a lead in choosing and organising other charitable fundraising. Sevenoaks Loaves & Fishes Foodbank does very important work in supporting the local community and they are truly grateful for your kind donations. The 'Toy Bring and Buy', organised by the School Councillors, was a great success, raising a surprisingly high total in aid of Cancer Research UK. The end of the year saw our children pitting themselves in a sponsored 'Lap For Life'. Your generosity in supporting the children's endeavours has been overwhelming and demonstrates the altruistic and outward looking ethos of the School. We look forward to sharing the total raised early in Term 1.

We continue our tradition of supporting The Royal British Legion through poppy sales at Remembrance time, and in collecting filled shoe boxes in the lead up to Christmas to support the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child Project.

Through the consumption of vast amounts of coffee and cake at the Macmillan Coffee Morning, the staff have continued to support a charity which is very close to their hearts.

We continue our special relationship with Weald Heights Care Home and, this year, were pleased to welcome some of their residents into School. A group of retired teachers enjoyed reading to the children and telling them about their experiences as evacuees, and a former Lady Boswell's pupil enjoyed telling us about her time, in the 1940s, in the former School building in the London Road.

LOOKING FORWARDS

As we reach the end of the academic year, we are pleased to take some time to assess our achievements and look ahead to the 2024-2025 academic year. As outlined by our governors at the Governor Forum earlier in the year, the School holds key Strategic Pillars which guide and provide structure to our strategy to ensure that the School is the best that it can be, and which act as an anchor and reference point.

The feedback that you provide, alongside that of our staff and pupils, through the annual governor surveys plays a key part in informing our School Improvement Plan and we are extremely grateful to those of you who have taken the time to provide us with feedback. We use this feedback, alongside a range of other information to formulate our School Improvement Plan for the coming academic year and we are pleased to share a summary with you below:

<p>Pillar 1: Ethos - a clear Christian ethos underpinning all aspects of School life</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a robust understanding of how our values and vision are rooted in theology and an agreed adaption of the curriculum to ensure it is fully rooted in that vision. • Staff and governors to develop a spirituality policy • The theologically rooted vision is communicated to all stakeholders and reflected on the website so all will have a robust understanding of how our values and vision are rooted in theology. • Implement new other faiths element of scheme of work for RE across the school. • Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) award process well underway.
<p>Pillar 2: Education - an outstanding education available to all pupils</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop task design to develop lines of enquiry and ensure tasks are shaped by our seven gifts. • Implement new forms of assessment in foundation subjects linked to lines of enquiry. • Observations and triangulation will clearly show a significant move from teachers as 'imparters of knowledge' to 'facilitators of enquiry' • New progression documents for DT, Art, History and Geography shared with all stakeholders and published on the website • Further develop triangulation process of monitoring, redesigning book scrutinies and learning walks. • SLT to agree and create new Curriculum Policy, identifying vision, policy and practice • New Science and RE schemes implemented
<p>Pillar 3: Staff - recruitment, development and retention of an excellent staff team</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate with Sevenoaks partnership and engage in shared CPD. • CPD audit completed • Sport Enrichment Lead recruited and inducted • New Family Liaison Officer role in place • Train two new teachers
<p>Pillar 4: Finance - strong financial position, sustained through robust resource management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCVAP funded project successfully completed • All further aspects of information management are comprehensively covered by new program and all staff confident in its use. • New income streams considered in the new budget.
<p>Pillar 5: Wellbeing - supporting positive wellbeing amongst all members of the school community</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lunchtime nurture groups fully operational with new staff lead • Visit other local Thrive Schools to understand how Thrive can be embedded at whole school level • All new staff trained in the school's pupil wellbeing offer. • All new staff have had staff wellbeing training • All staff trained in Zones of Regulation • Website updated to provide signposts to parents in regard to support for mental health and wellbeing

FINALLY ...

We appreciate that this letter may seem so long, but we felt it important to offer a really comprehensive summary of the past year and to give you that little glimmer of plans for the coming year. Having done so, it is now time to express our thanks to the many people that make our School the successful, forward-looking and loving place that it is.

Our Governing body work quietly and tirelessly to support the School, to offer strong direction and to provide challenge. Each of the Governors brings a wealth of expertise and gives their time to support the School. Through surveys and an annual forum, they keep a finger on the pulse with our entire community, and are always grateful for your interaction.

We are surrounded by diligent, hardworking, loving and committed colleagues, who demonstrate daily, the passion that they have to make this an exceptional School. With a clear understanding of our values and ethos, each staff member works to help guide our pupils, and help them to become well-rounded, caring and happy individuals.

Our Home-School partnership is key to every child's success. It is essential that we work together to support the children on their journey through these formative years, thus ensuring that every child has the support and stability they need to flourish and grow. Our thanks to you all. In addition, we are grateful for the support that each of our Class Reps offers in liaising with class parents over events and volunteering. Our parent volunteers offer invaluable support for children across the School, enabling and enhancing the children's education and supporting in areas from reading to Forest School, and from trips to sporting events. Their generosity with their time is hugely valued.

We are grateful for our Parent Prayer Group who continue to meet in School, and for our Lady Boswell's Parents Support group, who meet regularly to offer help to other families within School with children with autism, ADHD or social communication difficulties.

We wish you a very peaceful and happy summer break, sharing special times together. For those children returning to Lady Boswell's, we very much look forward to welcoming them back on the 4th September. For those who are moving on, again, we wish you health and happiness for the future. We hope that you will all stay in touch.

As we round up this letter, we are sure that you will join us in this prayer of thanksgiving:

Dear Lord, God of wisdom, we thank you for all the gifts you have given us throughout this school year. We praise you for giving us life, for saving us in Christ, and for choosing us to be your people.

As we come to the end of this school year, we voice our gratitude for the good things you have done in us, and we praise you for all who have shared in the work of this School. We ask you to bless them in your love and give them refreshment and peace.

We praise you, God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns forever. Amen

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Saunders' and 'Pullen', with a large flourish underneath.

Hannah Pullen and Sharon Saunders
Co-Headteachers