



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



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Dear parents and carers,

As we reach the summer holiday, we write to you to express our thanks for your support and kindness, to reflect on our many blessings and to share with you the SATs (Standardised Assessment Tests) results for the year.

The School has enjoyed a busy, successful and, generally, joyful year. The second week of this academic year did see us start with the sad news of the death of Queen Elizabeth II, followed in May with the coronation of His Majesty, King Charles III. The coronation saw us celebrating and marking this historic event in acts of service and through a 'street party'. We are sure that these celebrations will play a part in anchoring a time line in the children's minds, and marking out this academic year in their memories.

Celebrations aside, we remain mindful of those in our community, and beyond, who are facing hardship, and we know that you will continue to keep them in your thoughts and prayers. We have, this week and in recent weeks, said farewell to both children and staff members who are returning to their homes in Ukraine; we very much look forward to keeping in touch with them all.

At the start of the year, we were incredibly fortunate to open our Community Room. This new room has offered us a versatile space for interventions, meetings, PTA pre-loved uniform sales, Breakfast and After School Club and, most popular of all, DT cooking lessons. We have also been pleased to complete some updates in our Early Years classrooms and garden area and to open reading sheds in both the KS1 and KS2 playgrounds.

ACADEMIC SUCCESS

We are so very proud of the very high standards we hold here at Lady Boswell's and the incredible work done to ensure that every pupil achieves highly, regardless of their starting point. We are delighted to share the following results with you, from the recent external examinations.

KS1

Year 1 Phonics Check	Lady Boswell's 2023	National Average 2022*
% Pupils at reaching the expected level	90%	75%

Year 2 SATs		Lady Boswell's 2023	National Average 2022*
Reading	% Pupils reaching the expected level	88.3%	67%
	% Pupils exceeding the expected level	53.3%	18%
Writing	% Pupils reaching the expected level	86.7%	58%
	% Pupils exceeding the expected level	31.7%	8%
Maths	% Pupils reaching the expected level	88.3%	68%
	% Pupils exceeding the expected level	36.7%	15%

KS2

Year 6 SATs		Lady Boswell's 2023	National Average 2022*
Reading	% Pupils reaching the expected level	92%	74%
	% Pupils exceeding the expected level	63%	28%
	Average Point Score	110.7	104
SPAG	% Pupils reaching the expected level	91%	72%
	% Pupils exceeding the expected level	51%	28%
	Average Point Score	109.2	105
Writing	% Pupils reaching the expected level	89%	69%
	% Pupils exceeding the expected level	31%	13%
Maths	% Pupils reaching the expected level	91%	71%
	% Pupils exceeding the expected level	46%	22%
	Average Point Score	108.9	104

**please note that the 2023 national averages have not yet been published*

These results continue to be exceptional, with Lady Boswell's scoring above or significantly above the national averages in every subject. These results rightly affirm our outstanding curriculum, the incredibly high standard of teaching, the effective support we are able to offer our children with additional needs and the impact of the strategies we use to deepen and stretch the knowledge and skills of our more able pupils. Regardless of starting point, it is clear that *all* children thrive here at Lady Boswell's. Whilst we are rightly proud of the children's exceptional attainment, equally important is the progress that they make and we celebrate that in these results also. Our thanks 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.

LEAVERS, JOINERS AND STAFFING

On Wednesday, our Year 6 children were joined by their parents and carers, staff and the rest of our KS2 children, in a Leavers' Service at St. Nicholas Church. This service is always a very emotional one, with prayers and thanksgiving for shared experiences and friendships built over formative years. We are so proud of our Year 6 children; it has been a privilege to watch them develop and grow into such confident and determined individuals. We wish them happiness and success as they spread their wings and start a new chapter of their lives.

We wrote to you at the beginning of June and have included messages in the Newsletter to let you know that the following staff members will be leaving Lady Boswell's this week: Mrs Christine Dorricott, Mrs Kelly Harman, Mrs Vanda Marchetti, Mrs Imogen Rands-Webb, Mrs Estefania Serratosa-Roja, Mrs Sarah Walsh and Miss Demi Whatty. In addition, Breakfast and After School Club Manager, Mrs Sarah Smith will be leaving us at the start of the next academic year. Each and every one of them has made an enormous impact on the School and on the children in their care. We thank them and send them off with our love and prayers.

With her wedding taking place shortly after the end of term, we wish Miss Jemima Harris and her fiancé, Will, a very special day and happiness always. We look forward to welcoming her back to School as Mrs Scott.

Across the last few weeks of term, we have been thrilled to welcome our new Year R intake for their taster sessions, and to meet their families. Their buddies (currently Year 5) can't wait to meet their 'charges' at the Teddy Bears' Picnic in September, and to start to forge what always proves to be a special friendship. Alongside our new Year R children, we are pleased to welcome Class Teachers: Miss Noelia Serantes - Bradley, Mrs Sara Kempe and Mrs Laura Lewis. Our TA team will be joined by Mrs Belinda Duncan, Mrs Carol Henderson, Miss Abigail Rea and Mrs Lourdes Marinetto Sanchez. The Orchard Breakfast and After

School Club welcomes a new Manager, Miss Bronwyn Pipe, and After School and Breakfast Club practitioners, Miss Hollie Arnold, Mr Daniel Johnson and Ms Claire Stewart.

CURRICULUM AND ENRICHMENT

This year, the School's curriculum has continued to be enriched with a wide range of exceptional experiences for the children. With workshops covering all year group curricula, the School hall has seen the arrival of the Romans, Greeks, Vikings, Saxons and Victorians. We have travelled back to 1666 to experience the havoc that the Great Fire of London wrought; we have excavated dinosaur bones, visited Kenya and a British seaside resort, celebrated the Lunar new year and looked at the importance of diversity. With secondary school on the horizon, our Year 6 children took part in two separate workshops in which they considered the consequences of making wrong choices and some of the issues they may face with regard to peer pressure. French Day saw the children celebrating French culture and this followed closely on the heels of our 'fête des grands-parents'. We were bowled over by the response to this latter event and were delighted to throw open our doors and welcome grandparents to the School for 'chansons, jeux et rires'.

Escaping from the School site, we have seen two year groups visiting the theatre to enjoy performances of Matilda and The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe. Years 5 and 6 have both enjoyed outward bound and team building trips at Grosvenor Hall and Overstrand, in Norfolk. Linked to year group studies, many trips have been taken into town to visit churches, The Stag Theatre, shops, schools and even the Post Office. Beyond Sevenoaks, we have had exciting excursions to Howletts Zoo, Hastings Aquarium and Fisherman's Museum, Leeds Castle, Rochester Cathedral, Chatham Synagogue and even a Kentish Victorian village.

We are extremely grateful to both Sevenoaks School and Walthamstow Hall School for their outreach support in offering STEM workshops and for sharing their green credentials with our Eco Council. We hope that you enjoyed last week's Eco Council Newsletter which offered a flavour of their enthusiasm for all things green.

May's STEM Week was a truly inspirational event. Each year, the children relish the broad selection of investigations, workshops and experiences in which they become involved. Even bird of prey 'mess' in the hall elicited excitement and interest. Their enthusiasm across the week was infectious and we were pleased to be able to share the details of the week with you through our STEM Blogs logged in our website.

Forest School has, this year, come into its own. Year R continues to enjoy a weekly trip in which they have the opportunity to explore and enjoy all that nature has to offer. From January, our Year 4 children have also had an opportunity to take part in regular sessions in Forest School, learning the art of bush craft. These sessions have been very much enjoyed and anticipated.

As a part of our whole school reading initiative, every year group took to Forest School to cluster around the camp fires and enjoy a good book. This proved to be very popular and we aim to repeat this in the next academic year. This initiative was aimed at developing our whole-school reading culture and was launched at the start of 2023. The programme continues into the autumn with an extensive calendar. So far this year, the children have been involved with many reading events which have included Book Fortnight, book swaps, Readathlon, reading campfires and the ever popular 'Surprise Readers'. Our outdoor reading sheds have been a real hit with the children and we are grateful to our parents for helping us to stock the shelves with a wide range of titles.

Marking special events across the year, we very much enjoyed World Book Day, which linked to our Travelling Book Fair. National Poetry Day in October instigated both the writing and learning of poetry and culminated in a Poetry Assembly in which each class recited a poem to the rest of the School. We marked Black History Month in October with some inspiring workshops. February saw us acknowledging Safer Internet Day and NSPCC Numbers Day and we celebrated World Earth Day in April.

With our children's mental health a real focus for us all, we have continued to use the RULER scheme which aims at helping the children recognise and regulate their emotions. With effect from next year, we plan to enhance this with the introduction of a programme called Thrive. More information on this incredibly useful tool will follow in the autumn. In February, we marked Children's Mental Health Week with the theme of 'Let's connect'. Marking this national event, children from different year groups joined together to take part in

a session of fun and challenge, with choices ranging from sports to crafts, and even to escape rooms. It was a really inspiring afternoon and heartening to see the children from different year groups working together and supporting each other.

Our annual Prayer Day took place in March and saw each year group visiting the Stations of the Cross. This event is always a special day of prayer and reflection and plays an important part in the Christian life of our School. Our worship has seen us celebrating harvest, marking Remembrance Day, the start of Lent, Easter, Advent and celebrating Mother's Day, Pentecost and the joy of friendship. Our KS2 led Christmas worship with a carol service and our KS1 children marked Christmas with angels, tinsel and tea towels!

This year we have striven to develop, enhance and increase the musical opportunities for our children. Year 3 and 4 classes have enjoyed class recorder lessons, with this being developed in Year 5 to allow the children to take part in whole-class clarinet lessons. At the end of this academic year, our Early Years and Year 1 children have benefited from music lessons with specialist music teacher, Mrs Drake. We are in the process, with the support of our marvellous PTA, of replacing and purchasing instruments to expand the opportunities for children across the School. Our peripatetic teachers have encouraged their pupils to showcase their talents through assemblies held across the year and our Orchestra, under the baton of Mrs Bragg, has gone from strength-to-strength. Sevenoaks School hosted a Sevenoaks Music Hub concert, at which our Orchestra performed and two of our musicians played solos. Alongside our Orchestra, we have been delighted, this year, to introduce a beginner strings ensemble and a drumming club. Next year we plan to add a ukulele club which, we have no doubt, will be a popular addition to our clubs selection. Our KS1 and KS2 choirs have enjoyed a successful year and many of our children are looking forward to taking part in the O2 Young Voices event in January 2024. Performing arts are always a highlight for our pupils and the performance of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat, by our Year 5 and 6 children last week, was the culmination of weeks of rehearsal. We couldn't have been prouder of them as they relished the opportunity of performing on a professional stage.

Clubs remain an important part of school life and through School clubs and 'Activities Extra' clubs, we are delighted to be able to offer such extensive and exciting options. We continue to investigate new possibilities and to broaden the choices even further in the coming academic year.

In the early part of the year, 51 of our Year 5 children chose to take part in KCC Bikeability training. This saw the children learning some basics of bicycle maintenance, road safety skills and, above all, gaining confidence.

With a passion for sport, this year has been another busy year of both internal and external events. We have extended our inter-house competitions to ensure that children are given regular opportunities to compete in a range of sports for their house teams; these have included tag rugby, cross country, netball, football, tennis, dance, basketball, hockey, gymnastics, rapid fire cricket, kwik cricket, infant agility and, of course, sports day. With impressive performances in external fixtures with our squads, we have had to put up new display shelves to house the additional silverware. We have fielded teams in football, netball, tag rugby, Kwik cricket, tennis, hockey and infant agility and our dancers have been proud to showcase their skills at Love2Dance. Lady Boswell's was proud to host the District Swimming Gala at Sevenoaks School this year, as well as participating in a range of district sports events.

We have, of course, suffered the disappointment of limited swimming lessons this year due to the financial difficulties faced by the management at the Sevenoaks Leisure Centre. We are, however, relieved that lessons for our Year 3 to 6 children will be reinstated from September.

Our children are truly blessed with the opportunities provided by the school curriculum and the broad offer of extra-curricular enrichment here at Lady Boswell's, and we value how these opportunities enable every child to find new passions, experience new things and show us their wider talents.

PTA

Our active and imaginative PTA have continued to work extremely hard this year to support the School. They have offered enjoyable community events and, supported by our parent/carer body, raised a record-breaking amount of money which will benefit every child in School, both today and into the future. Following our

Parentmail of yesterday, please do take a moment to read the July 2023 PTA Newsletter and enjoy the summary of what has been achieved. We would like to reiterate our heartfelt thanks to outgoing members of the PTA, Mrs Helen Gush, Dr Anneen Aucamp and Mrs Claire Leslie, all of whom have played a pivotal role in the running and functioning of the PTA. Our thanks to the entire Committee for their commitment to the School. We commend them to you and ask, should you be able to spare a little time, that you offer to join their ranks; they will be delighted to hear from you. Please contact them at ladyboswellspta@googlemail.com.

LOOKING OUTWARDS

With core values of love and kindness, the School is always keen to encourage the children to show compassion. We have continued our links again, this year, with Weald Heights Care Home, enjoying a special inter-generational relationship with its residents. We continue to support our friends at FOM (Farming for Orphans in Mozambique) and are grateful for your donations at harvest and Christmas time towards this worthwhile cause. Across the year, with your help, we have also supported Samaritan's Purse, NSPCC, Sevenoaks Loaves & Fishes Food Bank, Comic Relief (Red Nose Day), Read for Good (who support local children's hospitals) and Earth Day. Staff have also supported Macmillan Cancer Support. Only this week, the produce from our School garden has been harvested and delivered to the Loaves & Fishes Food Bank; well done to our green-fingered children. We are always overwhelmed by the generosity of our school community and despite the national financial challenges experienced by many of us, this year has been no different.

LOOKING FORWARDS

Term 6 is always one of our busiest and provides us with an opportunity to evaluate our achievements and look forward to continuing in our pursuit of excellence. We thank those of you that took the time to contribute to this evaluation by completing the parent questionnaire and attending the parent governor forum. We have combined your feedback with feedback from the staff and pupils as well as analysis of the attainment and progress data to inform our strategic improvement plan for the year ahead. In line with our strategic pillars, throughout the 2023/24 academic year we are committed to further developing the school in the following ways:

<p>Pillar 1: Ethos - a clear Christian ethos underpinning all aspects of School life</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embed shared understanding of bullying and how it can be prevented • Increase opportunities for connections between staff and parents • Embed a deep and shared understanding of the theological roots to all that we do
<p>Pillar 2: Education - an outstanding education available to all pupils</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore and develop an enquiry curriculum • Further increase the capacity to meet SEND needs in the classroom • Review assessment in the foundation subjects
<p>Pillar 3: Staff - recruitment, development and retention of an excellent staff team</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embed our developmental observations model • Further train our TAs in pedagogy • Build a structure for coaching across the school • Conduct a workload review
<p>Pillar 4: Finance - strong financial position, sustained through robust resource management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce a new MIS (Management Information Service) which will incorporate our parent communication and payment systems • Further expand our Orchard provision

Pillar 5: Wellbeing - supporting positive wellbeing amongst all members of the school community

- Implement a strategy for 'Thrive' across the school
- Further develop the offer for staff wellbeing

More details of this will follow in Term 1.

With a change in leadership structure from September (see Parentmail from Chair of Governors dated 3/7/23), we will have in place an enhanced Senior Leadership Team and Middle Leadership Team, staffed by talented individuals who will bring additional strength and drive.

FINALLY ...

We round off our letter with a few very well-deserved 'thank you's'.

Our Governing body continues to provide the school with strong direction, challenge, support and encouragement, and we are truly grateful to each of them for the time and expertise that they give to ensure that Lady Boswell's flourishes.

Our thanks to our colleagues who constantly go 'above and beyond' and make Lady Boswell's the extraordinary place that it continues to be. One parent wrote in this year's Parent/Carer Survey "It is very clear to me that the teaching staff really know and cherish my children." This is certainly true and we are blessed for having such diligent and caring staff. The School wouldn't flourish in the way that it does without such an exceptional team.

Our parent/carer volunteers play a vital part in the children's learning and we thank them for giving their time so selflessly and their dedication to their roles. We also thank our Class Reps, who play an important part in supporting parents, the PTA and the School. The generosity of our volunteers is hugely valued.

Most importantly, we thank you, our wonderful parents and carers, for the essential part that you play in the home-school partnership. The children's progress is reliant on our joint efforts and, working together, we can provide the children with the continuity and stability that they need to thrive.

A final, special and personal thank you comes from me, Mrs Pullen, to the whole Lady Boswell's community for making me feel so very welcome here in my first year as Co-Headteacher. It has been a pleasure to meet so many of you and to get to know your wonderful children. Every day, I am blown away by this exceptional School: its strong Christian ethos, the ambitious curriculum, the talents and professionalism of the staff and governors, the incredible achievements of the children and the kindness and generosity of our parent body. Lady Boswell's is a very special place to be and I feel incredibly fortunate to be part of it.

We do hope that you enjoy a very happy summer, enjoying time together and making special memories. We look forward to seeing many of you again in September, but for those whose who are leaving us, we wish you every happiness for the future. We are sure that you will join us in this final prayer of thanksgiving:

Dear Lord, as we come to the end of this school year, we offer our thanks and praise to you for the blessings of the past year. We are grateful for the growth, the relationships formed, and the accomplishments achieved by students and staff. Amen.

Yours sincerely



Hannah Pullen and Sharon Saunders
Co-Headteachers