

Swavesey Primary School

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Dear Parents, Carers and Staff,

As we reach the end of the academic year, I'm proud to reflect on the many achievements across Swavesey Primary School. Despite ongoing financial challenges, we continue to prioritise the best outcomes for our pupils, thanks to the hard work of our School Business Manager, Head Teacher, Senior Leadership Team, and the commitment of all our staff.

Like many schools, we face financial pressures due to national funding not matching rising costs. Nevertheless, with careful planning and strong teamwork, we've managed our resources effectively—though not without making some tough decisions, for which staff support has been invaluable. The committee reports highlight these successes alongside the challenges we have faced, especially financially, and the actions we have taken to secure the best possible outcomes

This year's School Development Plan (SDP) focused on:

- Ensuring overall achievement across the school remains above both National and Cambridgeshire.
- Leaders and teachers implementing the curriculum ensuring this is reflected in classroom teaching.
- Sustaining the school's ethos and strategic direction

For those parents that may be new to the school, alongside our Full Governing Body meetings, the Governing body is organised into two sub-committees through which most of our 'hands-on' governance and support is organised. These committees are the Curriculum, Learning and Achievement (CLA) and the Resources committee, and both committees focus their time and energy on ensuring that the programme of improvement outlined in the SDP is delivered.

I would like to thank all the governors for their continued commitment and support in what has been an especially busy year for us, with Ofsted and Headteacher recruitment activities. In particular, I must thank Rachel Hallam, who is stepping down after many years of service on the governing body, including as Chair of CLA and SEND governor.

Being a governor brings many rewards, including visiting the school for subject link and monitoring visits and seeing the enthusiasm of staff and pupils first-hand and we currently have a vacancy for a co-opted governor. If you're interested in getting involved, more details can be found here: [Governor Information](#) or speak to any of the governors.

We are extremely grateful for the dedication of the staff who work tirelessly to support the school, not just in their usual roles but in running clubs, volunteering to support events and covering staff shortages in their own free time. This has enabled us to continue to provide a range of enriching activities both during and outside the normal school day.

I would like to give a special mention to the team at the Pre-School and Kids club who provide a fantastic introduction to the school for younger children and wraparound care to support our children and families navigating busy lives.

A huge thank you also goes to the PTA for continuing to plan and organise a wealth of activities to entertain and raise much-needed funds for the school. From fireworks and the fete to baking and discos there is always



something happening. None of this would be possible without the small but dedicated committee and crew of volunteers behind the scenes.

It continues to be a privilege to be involved with the wider school community, staff, volunteers, pupils, families and friends who all come together to support the school in fostering an environment where our children can become happy and confident life long learners.

Finally, we say farewell to Mrs Norden who is retiring after a career spanning over 30 years in education, with 11 years here at our school. During her time here Mrs Norden has played a key role in shaping the school's vision and creating a positive, enriching environment for pupils, families, and staff. Her love of the outdoors is reflected in our curriculum and through initiatives such as the gardening club, wildlife area, and school chickens. Her legacy can be measured through the progress and attainment for all, through formal recognition in Ofsted and SATS but most importantly by the genuine passion for learning, the strong sense of community and the outstanding levels of personal development of our pupils.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable summer.



Hannah Parish

Chair of Governors, on behalf of the Full Governing Body

CLA Committee End-of-Year Report – July 2025

As we come to the end of another school year, we wanted to take a moment to share a few reflections from the Curriculum and Learning Achievement (CLA) Committee – and what a positive and rewarding year it's been!

Throughout the year, we've seen both staff and pupils going above and beyond. The creativity, enthusiasm and commitment from everyone working at the school has been genuinely inspiring, and it's been a real privilege to witness it all as governors.

One of the big highlights of the year was, of course, our Ofsted inspection. We were thrilled that the final report reflected what we already knew: this is a fantastic school where personal development sits at the heart of everything. Ofsted praised many areas – from the ambitious curriculum and high-quality teaching to the inclusive support for SEND pupils and the school's strong leadership at all levels. Early Years, in particular, received glowing feedback for its skilled and nurturing approach. We're also proud that the one area noted for improvement was already being worked on – a testament to the school's continuous drive to grow and improve.

A huge thank you to all pupils, staff, parents and governors who contributed during the inspection process – it really was a whole-school effort.

We've also had the pleasure of hearing from subject leaders during our committee meetings. They've shared classroom insights, examples of children's work, and the ways they assess and adapt their subjects to support every learner. Their dedication, passion and knowledge shone through in every presentation, and we feel lucky to have such a talented and hardworking team.

Throughout the year, we've continued to stay closely connected with staff through our meetings and subject link roles. We've carried out learning walks, observed lessons, admired brilliant displays, and looked at children's work across the school. We've seen clear, thoughtful progression across the phases, and it's clear just how much effort goes into making sure learning is rich, engaging, and meaningful for all children.

This year has also been packed with memorable experiences for the pupils – from exciting school trips and another successful PGL, to Bikeability, sports galore and joyful school performances. These are the moments that build confidence, community, and connection – and it's been lovely to see them enjoyed by all.



As we look ahead, we do so with mixed emotions, as we say a fond farewell to two much-loved members of the team. Mrs Norden, our wonderful Headteacher, is retiring, and we wish her all the happiness in the world in the next chapter. Her leadership and love for the school (and gardening club!) will be truly missed. We also say goodbye to Mrs Poskitt, our Deputy Head, whose work across the school and in Early Years has made a lasting impact. We're so grateful for everything she's given to the school.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We hope you all have a relaxing and happy summer holiday.

With warmest wishes,

Nicola Griffiths

Nicola Griffiths

CLA chair

Resources Committee End-of-Year Report – July 2025

As we come to the end of another financially challenging year, we are pleased to report that, despite the pressures of an in year deficit, the school has managed to budget with a surplus at the end of the year due to our carry forward from 2024/25 that will support the unknown budget for next year. While schools across the country continue to face significant funding constraints, this is a fortunate position to be in, as each year the financial demands on our resources outweighs any increase in funding.

This financial stability is the result of careful planning, hard work, and some difficult decisions. Unfortunately, we have once again had to make sacrifices, including reducing the number of hours worked by our incredibly resilient and dedicated Teaching Assistants. This has, understandably, placed additional pressure on our teaching and support staff, who have continued to show immense professionalism and commitment in supporting our pupils.

This year also brings with it some significant changes to our leadership team. We bid a fond farewell to our much-loved Headteacher, Anna Norden, who is retiring after years of dedicated service. Anna has led the school through many important chapters, not least our recent Ofsted inspection, which resulted in a fantastic outcome. Most notably, the school was rated Outstanding in the area closest to Anna's heart – pupils' personal development – a fitting recognition of her unwavering commitment to the wellbeing and growth of every child in our care. We wish Anna all the very best as she begins a new chapter filled with travel, gardening, and well-earned rest with her husband.

We also say goodbye to our long-standing Deputy Head, Lucy Poskitt, who has been a key part of our school for an incredible 16 years. Her contribution to the school has been invaluable, and she will be greatly missed by staff, pupils, and families alike.

We are delighted to welcome our new Deputy Head Teacher, David Quinlan, who joins us from a school in Huntingdon. David brings with him a wealth of experience, fresh perspective, and a deep commitment to high-quality education. We are excited to have him on board and look forward to the positive impact he will have as he becomes part of our school community.

In addition, we say a warm and heartfelt thank you to Clare Namur, our Year 3/4 Kingfishers class teacher, who is also leaving the school this summer. Clare has made a lasting impact on so many children throughout her time here, and her dedication, warmth, and creativity in the classroom will be greatly missed.

We also say goodbye to two of our much-loved Teaching Assistants, Julia Allen and Sharon Durrant, both of whom have supported generations of children with unwavering kindness, patience, and care. Their dedication



over the years has left a positive and lasting legacy, and we thank them sincerely for all they have given to our school community.

Looking ahead, we are excited to welcome our new Headteacher, Lynsey Ogilvie, who many of you will already know. As the current Chair of the PTA and a parent with children at the school, Lynsey is deeply connected to both the school and the wider village community. We are confident that her experience and passion for education will be a great asset in the years to come.

We are also proud to highlight the continued strength of our Early Years team, who provide high-quality pre-school and Kids Club services. These much-needed provisions play a vital role in supporting working families, offering a safe and nurturing environment for our youngest learners. In addition to their educational and care value, the Kids Club is now providing a much-needed financial contribution to support the sustainability of Early Years provision, helping us to continue delivering this essential service.

We must also recognise that PTA funding is now more essential than ever. As pressures on school budgets continue to grow, the support and fundraising provided by our PTA has become a crucial part of maintaining and enriching school life. Whether it's funding equipment, trips, or special activities, these contributions make a real difference — so please do continue to support PTA events and initiatives wherever you can.

Finally, we would like to extend our sincere thanks to our hardworking finance and office team, led by Wendy Whistler. Their tireless work behind the scenes has played a crucial role in ensuring that the school continues to operate efficiently and remains in a secure financial position.

There is no denying that each new academic year seems to bring fresh challenges — and, sadly, it rarely seems to get any easier. Like many schools, we are navigating increasing demands with limited resources, and it's a tough reality we continue to face.

However, what continues to set our school apart is the unwavering commitment of our staff, the strength of our leadership, the dedication of our support teams, and the incredible support from our families and wider community. With this united effort, we are not just managing — we are continuing to provide a rich, caring, and high-quality education for every child.

As we look ahead, we remain hopeful, determined, and grounded in the belief that, together, we can continue to give our children the very best start in life — even in the most challenging of times.

With warmest wishes,

Catherine Cannon

Catherine Cannon

Chair of Resources Committee

