

July 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

What a year it has been! Let me share our news with you.

TPA End of Year Data 2023

May I take this opportunity to congratulate all our Year 6 pupils and staff on a marvellous and well-deserved end of Key Stage Two (KS2) outcomes.

The collaborative and concerted effort across our multi-academy trust has helped us achieve significant improvements in KS2 data; our combined outcomes for reading, writing and maths are up by 9% compared to the previous year (2022). This puts our TPA average for combined outcomes above the current national average by 5% and this is also an improvement on our pre-Covid data of 2019 (a 3% increase). Congratulations again to all our Heads, teachers, staff, and the children and their parents for this fantastic achievement.

Curriculum

This year all our teachers have focused on developing and embedding our curriculum offer. The curriculum in TPA schools is designed to inspire and motivate our children. Our aim is for every child to experience 'an extraordinary school day' every day. We place children at the heart of the learning process through a bespoke teaching and learning model. The model, which is rooted firmly in research and analysis of effective learning and teaching, translates the trust's expectations into classroom practice.

We use the International Primary Curriculum (IPC) as a framework for learning. IPC provides a clear, thematic approach which ensures coverage of the national curriculum. The thematic approach links well with our mission to make all learning exciting, active and meaningful for all our children.

We have used The White Rose Mathematics Scheme in all our schools for a number of years and have recently introduced a proven phonics scheme, Little Wandle. We will be rolling out a new research-based reading and writing scheme in 2023 called CLUSP. Our standardised curriculum is now consistent in all TPA schools and has been recognised in the three recent Ofsted inspections where schools were rated as 'Good' or better.

EYFS Curriculum

This year there has been a real focus on developing a TPA approach which has included creating a standardised curriculum for EYFS (early years foundation stage) and clear expectations about learning environments. We have now created standardised policies with a guidance document and videos to illustrate expectations. This has included a strong CPD programme for EYFS staff to ensure the highest standards of Quality First Teaching in EYFS in TPA schools.

Ofsted Inspections



Three of our schools have been formally inspected by Ofsted this academic year. In November 2022, Edenbridge Primary School was inspected and received a 'Good' report. This was a brilliant achievement as when the school joined our family of schools several years before it had received an 'Inadequate' judgement. My two favourite statements from the Ofsted report are: "Pupils come to Edenbridge Primary School full of enthusiasm, they are excited to learn..." and "The School is a happy, welcoming place."

Then, in January 2023, South Norwood Primary School was inspected and received an 'Inadequate' judgement by Ofsted when it joined us several years before. The school and its community shone and the school me again share my favourite sentences from the report: "They are happy, safe and enjoy learning." and "Leaders want every day to be an extraordinary day and plan additional experiences



School, which was also rated 'Good' years before, was inspected. The report received a 'Good' Ofsted grade. Let report: "Pupils like their school. "Leaders want every day to be an extraordinary day and plan additional experiences for all pupils to undertake."



In April 2023, Stewart Fleming Primary School was inspected: the school was graded as 'Outstanding' by Ofsted in 2016, but 81% of Outstanding schools are being downgraded under this new Ofsted framework – so the pressure was on! But there was no need to worry as the school has blossomed this year and received an 'Outstanding' judgement: "Pupils are happy and enthusiastic learners who are extremely proud of their school. They are highly motivated and want to learn new things."

We may have quite a few more Ofsted inspections next year and we know we can rely on you to continue to support our schools and pupils so that we can ensure our schools are the very best places for your children. Thank you for your continued support.

New Schools to TPA

I am delighted to inform you that three schools have, or will be, joining our partnership this year:

- Downe Primary School, a small rural school in Bromley, joined us formally on 1st January 2023 (Ofsted 'Good')
- West Blatchington Primary and Nursery School, a one form entry school in Brighton, will join us on 1st August 2023 (Ofsted 'Good')
- Hollington Primary School, a one and a half form entry school in Hastings, will be joining us on 1st September 2023 (Ofsted 'Inadequate').

We are all really looking forward to our new schools joining as they will add strength and experience to our fantastic teams.

Capital (building) investment in our schools

It has been and continues to be a very busy year for our estates team. As the year comes to an end, we have invested over £2,000,000 to improve our school's environments for our pupils and communities. These works include: classroom refurbishments, toilet refurbishments, MUGA (multi use games area) sports areas, new IT suites, sensory rooms and new outdoor learning environments.

We have also invested heavily in improving school infrastructure, such as replacing boiler systems, replacing roofs, replacing heating pipes and radiators and upgrading fire protection systems.



Final Thought

May I take this opportunity to thank you and your children for such a positive year – without your wonderful children and the support you give our schools we wouldn't have had such a fantastic year.

I would like to wish all our Year 6 children, who are leaving us today, the very best in your amazing futures. We will be thinking of you in September when you start your new adventure in your new schools.

Keep safe and enjoy August and we will see you all back in school next academic year.

Yours sincerely
Lee Mason-Ellis
CEO, The Pioneer Academy

Vision and Expectations

Vision

We put children first, pioneering excellence and championing each and every child

Expectations

Safe:

- Schools are safe and secure
- Safeguarding culture is effective and robust
- Similarities and differences are celebrated; everyone thrives and flourishes

Happy:

- Pupils and staff are positive and succeed in a supportive environment
- Wellbeing for all
- High standards of attendance and enjoyment are outcomes of an inclusive TPA school

Learning:

- Learning is achieved by the successful sequencing of memorable experiences
- Learners are engaged, resilient and enthusiastic
- Learning outcomes are ambitious due to knowledgeable and effective teaching