HEATHBROOK PRIMARY SCHOOL

ENABLING DREAMS THROUGH KNOWING EACH CHILD

As Headteacher, I am delighted that Heathbrook Primary School in Lambeth is recognised as a top performing and improving school. We take pride in creating an environment where every opportunity is offered to inspire each child. In our most recent inspection, Ofsted notes that ‘The headteacher, senior leaders, governing body and staff have a shared vision for the type of education they want to provide’ (June 2016).

Our curriculum starts with the child
‘Pupils are given a wide range of opportunities across the school to broaden their experiences and try out new things’ (Ofsted).

We are passionate about our creative community curriculum meeting the needs of each child. We seek to develop a love of learning. Ofsted observes that ‘pupils across the school are enthusiastic about books and read regularly for pleasure’.

As a result our incredibly high academic expectations place us in the top 6% of schools nationally for progress. At Key Stage 2 children hugely exceed expectations with 55% making more than ‘expected progress’ in reading (compared to 33% nationally) and 53% making more than ‘expected progress’ in maths (compared to 34% nationally). Ofsted confirms that the ‘most able achieve highly, especially in maths and reading’ and how the ‘teaching of mathematics is effective, particularly for the most able, who are challenged to attempt complex problem solving and investigations’.

Broad learning opportunities prepare children for the future
The curriculum encourages pupils to explore their natural surroundings, fosters positive relationships and encourages them to be curious and creative’ (Ofsted).

Through the wide range of varied opportunities and experiences we provide, pupils are enabled to understand, communicate with and respond to the world. Our own outdoor learning curriculum, Natural Thinkers, takes place in our extensive space and gives all pupils a deep first-hand connection with nature. Ofsted notes that our ‘exceptional’ site is ‘meticulously planned to provide an extremely rich, interesting and creative environment for the pupils to learn and play in’.

Our creative curriculum offers pupils the opportunity to enquire and develop their own thinking. The Art Studio provides space for designing and inventing. Ofsted states that ‘The school’s commitment to creativity has enabled it to become an associate school for the Southbank Centre and, as a result, pupils are regularly involved in musical and art events’. Dance and drama performances are presented for the wider community.
Music is vital for spiritual development; pupils sing, compose and play to a high standard throughout the school. Our well-established school orchestra includes strings, woodwind and brass instruments and performs with the school choir for the local community.

All pupils represent the school at a range of sporting events, locally and nationally, supported by strong partnerships eg. Surrey Cricket and Harlequins Rugby. Our Lacrosse Team competed in the National Finals again in 2016.

**Strong relationships at the heart of everything we do**

A ‘nurturing and secure environment where all pupils are known well and are kept safe’ ensures that children ‘mix well together across year groups and are polite and courteous’ (Ofsted).

Our focus on resilience, responsibility and respect enables children to develop self-discipline and manage emotions. Ofsted recognises that ‘Staff pay particular attention to children’s emotional development and well-being’.

**Parental involvement is key to our success**

‘School leaders have worked tirelessly to encourage parents, carers and the wider community to become involved in the life of the school’ (Ofsted).

108 respondents to Ofsted’s Parent View survey are ‘unanimous in their positive view of the school’ (Ofsted). In addition 91% ‘strongly agree’ that their child is happy at Heathbrook.

Our regular and informative communication with parents and carers includes curriculum meetings and termly reports. The views of parents and carers are vital to improving our school. In addition to questionnaires, our termly Parent Forums enable decision-making to occur in partnership.

Our Friends of Heathbrook (PTA) engages parents and carers as Reading, Creative and Gardening volunteers. The renowned Winter and Summer Fairs, coffee mornings and evening social events strengthen community values.

**The next stage of our journey**

Following Ofsted’s resounding endorsement of our learning culture, our future ambition for the school knows no bounds.

Ben Roberts
Headteacher