

## Annual report from the Local Governing Committee (LGC)

As another busy year comes to a close at Langham, I wanted to share some of the highlights that have made this year so memorable:-

- In November, we had a pop-up swimming pool on-site for three weeks. This enabled every child in the school to take part in swimming lessons, helping us not only to meet the government's target for all children to swim 25 metres by the end of primary school, but also to exceed curriculum expectations. We were proud to offer additional 'quiet' sessions for children with special educational needs, as well as tailored sessions for our youngest pupils in Reception.
- At the start of the year, we had the privilege of working with Anne Schwegmann, a nationally renowned mosaic artist, on a project that now has a permanent place in our gallery. I think you'll agree the hallway down to the hall looks spectacular, showcasing all the pieces produced by the children.
- Our Girls' Football Team achieved a fantastic victory in a local Colchester schools tournament, earning a spot at the regional finals in Peterborough. Whilst there, the team had the opportunity to see the Premier League trophy and competed against teams from across the region. For a school of our size, this was a remarkable achievement. We were also proud to be recognised as an 'Equal Access' school by the Girls' Football School Partnerships earlier in the year.
- Mrs Arter introduced Drawing Club to her provision for Reception children. It had a positive impact on imagination, concentration and language providing opportunities for structured talk with all pupils as they describe their creations. She led a staff meeting demonstrating it to other teachers in our school. It has been adapted for use with children up to Year 6 as part of activities designed to practice and improve social communication.



The girl's football team with the Premier League trophy.



Intensive swimming lessons in our 'pop up' pool made a real difference.

### Joining Canonium Learning Trust

This year we became part of the Canonium Learning Trust. Our main incentive for making the decision was to retain Langham's unique character while gaining more financial stability and support for our teaching staff by joining an organisation with the same purpose: **to provide every child with the best possible education**. By collaborating with other schools within the trust, we hope to achieve even better outcomes for every child, by sharing best teaching practices & resources.

With the conversion completed on 1<sup>st</sup> April, our role as governors has changed slightly. We are now a Local Governing Committee (LGC) operating under Canonium's board of trustees which means that we are able to concentrate all our efforts on supporting and challenging the school in the things that really matter: the quality of teaching & learning; delivering an effective curriculum and working with school leaders on monitoring the school development plan.

While the day-to-day experience for pupils and families has remained largely unchanged, there have been many behind-the-scenes administrative adjustments. We have been very impressed with how well the administrative team has managed the transition and integrated new working practices into the day-to-day management of the school.

### Looking Ahead to September

We're excited to launch wraparound care from September, operated by Junior Adventures Group (JAG). This will include a breakfast club from 7:30am and after-school care until 6:00pm—an important addition to help families better manage work and home life.

We have also secured funding for new enhanced provision for SEN, which is expected to be ready by the second half of the Autumn term. This space will further enhance our existing provision, offering improved facilities, resources, and inclusive teaching strategies.

### Academic performance

An important role of governors is to monitor and challenge the school's academic performance. Each term we look at teacher assessment data provided by the school to check that children are on track to meet their targets and reach their potential. These are the most important assessments the school makes because they take into account how well children are doing over an extended period of time. This term, National Foundation for Education Research (NFER) tests in reading and mathematics have also been introduced. Outcomes in these tests provide us with another window into how well children are progressing as well as information for teachers about which areas of the curriculum pupils are doing well at and which might need a bit of extra work.

In primary school, there are four statutory assessment measures, which allow us to compare our performance with other schools. We have to be careful with this data due to small cohorts in our school. However, it allows us to ask questions and helps pinpoint areas we need to challenge the school to improve.

#### *Early Years Foundation Stage: children achieving a good level of development (GLD)*

	2023-2024	2024-2025
% of pupils achieving GLD at Langham	80	79
% of pupils achieving GLD national figure	68	69 <sup>1</sup>

Children get off to a flying start at Langham and this seems to be reflected in the proportion of children reaching a Good Level of Development by the end of Reception.

#### *Phonics screening check*

	2023-2024	2024-2025
% of pupils reaching expected standard by end of Year 1 at Langham	67	90
% of pupils reaching expected standard by end of Year 1 national figure	80	80
% of pupils reaching expected standard by end of Year 2 at Langham	100	83
% of pupils reaching expected standard by end of Year 2 national figure	89	91

Our systematic approach to teaching phonics from the outset means that most children attain the expected standard by the end of Year 1. This can vary a bit from year to year, but the vast majority catch up in Year 2 if they need to.

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<sup>1</sup> National figures for 2024-5 academic year are provisional

#### *Multiplication tables check (Year 4)*

	2023-2024	2024-2025
% of pupils scoring full marks (25/25) at Langham	33	20
% of pupils scoring full marks (25/25) national figure	34	35
Average score (out of 25) at Langham	22.2	19.3
Average score (out of 25) national figure	20.6	21.1

The multiplication tables check has been compulsory for a few years and is taken in Year 4. We tend to be around average in terms of proportions of children achieving full marks and average score overall.

#### *SAT test outcomes (Y6)*

	2023-2024	2024-2025
% of pupils achieving expected standard in reading at Langham	81	50
% of pupils achieving expected standard in reading national figure	74	75
% of pupils achieving expected standard in GPS <sup>2</sup> at Langham	81	57
% of pupils achieving expected standard in GPS national figure	72	72
% of pupils achieving expected standard in mathematics at Langham	69	43
% of pupils achieving expected standard in mathematics national figure	73	74

The school and governors have been tracking the progress of the children leaving school in 2025 for a number of years due to their lower achieving profile. Two or three children missed the threshold for the expected threshold by just a few marks. However, the targets set for the school were missed this year. This is disappointing for all concerned and frustrating because it masks some excellent work done by the school in supporting children to achieve the best outcomes possible and make fantastic progress from their starting points.

We would like to see children be more confident in mathematics by the time they leave our Langham and fully support the school's plans to continue to engage with the Venn maths hub (a local maths specialist hub) to try to achieve this.

#### **Attendance**

Governors have been monitoring school attendance closely this year because our figures for overall absence (average absence figures across the school) and persistent absence (children with attendance below 90%) were too high.

Thank you for working with the school to improve children's attendance. We do not have our end of year figures and national comparisons from the DfE yet, but governors have seen a significant improvement since February half term, in particular in the number of children who are persistently absent.

#### **Staff Updates**

We will sadly be saying goodbye to Mrs Deller, who will be taking up a new post at Kelvedon St Mary's, and to Mrs Middlebrook who is taking a break from teaching to concentrate on other interests including raising her young family. Both will be greatly missed, and we thank them sincerely for their many years of dedication to Langham.

We are pleased to welcome Billie Claydon, who will be joining us as Class 2 teacher in September. Mrs Neale will be moving to Class 3 (Years 3 & 4), while Mrs Dawes will teach Class 4 (Years 5 & 6). Mr. MacDonald will teach Class 3 on Fridays.

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<sup>2</sup> Grammar punctuation and spelling

### **Remembering Roger**

The loss of Roger Hobday, our school caretaker, in December deeply affected our whole community. In his memory, over £2,000 has been raised—half through our Easter ‘Ramble for Roger’ and half from the church. We are currently working with Denise and her family on plans for a dedicated Forest School area, which we believe will serve as a meaningful and lasting legacy. Work on this project is due to begin during the October half-term.



Class 3 stop for a sin-along in Hobday woods during the ‘Ramble for Roger’ earlier this year.

### **The Local Governing Committee**

We’ve welcomed Lisa Slade & Graham Wells as new governors this year. Sadly, Ian Holdbrook & Daniel Moles have decided to step aside from the roles as SEND governor & chair of premises/ health and safety. We thank them both for their dedication and invaluable contributions, they will be really missed.

### **Thank You**

Finally, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our amazing staff, governors, FOLS, parents, carers, and everyone who contributes to the life of the school. Your time, effort, and commitment are what make Langham the special place it is.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable summer break—see you in September!

*Eve Oxley*

Chair of LGC

*Andrew MacDonald*

Headteacher