

Millennium



INTEGRATED PRIMARY SCHOOL

20221 – 2022 Academic Year

Our children are, and feel, safe
Our Children feel good about school
Our Children see school as a partnership

Introduction

Dear Parents,

I am pleased to be able to present to you the Governors' Annual Report for Millennium for the academic year 2021-2022, where the impact of COVID continued to reduce, however, it was still felt in different areas around the school.

The approach of the school staff in this time was vital. There was a balance to be struck of trying to work towards 'normality' but being mindful of the limitations which were still being imposed on public lives. As we learnt, COVID continued to stay around in society and continued to impact on the running of the school as children continued to be asked to isolate when there were confirmed cases. The more we wanted to get back to normality, the more we seemed to get 'push-back' from the virus. The disruptions in the year were not on the scale of the previous years, thankfully, however the work required for the school to operate on a daily basis should not be underestimated and I, again, pay tribute to the support and work of the whole staff and the support of the Governors in enabling us to get through the year.

The role of the Governors in the life of Millennium should not be underestimated. As a Grant-Maintained Integrated school, there is considerable responsibility and duty put onto the governor team on a regular basis. Our Board meets on a monthly basis (usually the evening of the first Thursday of the month) as well as members sitting on a range of other committees (such as admissions, recruitment, finance and policy) in between these regular full meetings. Members also commit time to fulfil recruitment duties, usually at weekends, as they seek to recruit the best talent to the school and for your children.

The 2021 academic year also gave us the opportunity to welcome new members of staff to the school, including Mr Alan McPherson as the vice-principal.

The Governors continue to demonstrate their commitment to the life of the school by the giving of their time and experience freely, and they ensure that I am supported to the best of their ability in maintaining the high standards which we set for the children and staff in Millennium.



Mr Barry Corrigan
Principal and Secretary to the Board of Governors

Chairperson's Report

I am delighted to be able to report the completion of another successful academic year at Millennium Integrated Primary School, although it has been another slightly different year for us all.

COVID restrictions have been greatly reduced within society, however, we continued to have some limitations on how we could operate as a school community on a daily basis. Under the leadership and direction of Mr Corrigan our staff team have continued to work diligently to deliver the curriculum to our student body whilst also being mindful of the continuing restrictions and the pastoral support the children also require.

Our parents and guardians have continued to support our kids, and Millennium as a school, through this period where we have these ongoing additional challenges. I would again like to extend my sincere thanks for the work put in as we work collectively to ensure that the students achieve and be the best that they can be. Well done everyone.

The ongoing leadership shown by our Principal continues to be exemplary throughout the year and the school development plan is progressing well.

Annual events such as the school open day and transfer tests have been able to revert back to the more usual format. I am pleased to say that our open day was well attended with interest in our school remaining high for prospective students for both nursery and P1 next year. Our outgoing P7 year have performed well again in the transfer exams. We wish all of our P7's well as they move to post primary education to continue their studies.

The Board of Governors continued to meet monthly to support Mr Corrigan and his team throughout with meetings being able to be held 'face to face' latterly as COVID restrictions waned. Again our entire staff team have demonstrated an unrivalled level of commitment to delivering an ongoing high quality learning experience for all of our children and, on behalf of the Governors, I would take this opportunity to congratulate them for a job well done.

We continued to progress the conversations with colleagues at DE and EA for the design and construction of our new school building throughout this time and I am pleased to say that this is moving forward with the designers.

My thanks also to the Board of Governors team for the ongoing contributions at the various junctures throughout the year and also to our Parents Council who carry out excellent work continually.

A final thanks again to everyone who is part of the Millennium experience. I look forward to us all working together to deliver an equally exciting and successful year ahead.

Declan Hall
Chair of Governors

Composition of the Board of Governors 2020-2021

The Scheme of Management for the Board of Governors allows for 16 voting members, the Principal of the school and any co-opted members.

The principal and co-opted members do not have voting rights.

Of the voting members:

- 6 shall be Foundation Governors, at least one-third of whom shall, at the time of their appointment, be parents of children attending the school;
- 4 shall be appointed by the Department of Education;
- 4 shall be elected by parents of children attending the school from amongst the parents of such children; and
- 2 shall be elected by the teachers

Department of Education Representatives

Mr Reg Magowan (Jan 2018)

Mr Rodney Dowling (Jan 2018)

Foundation Governors

Mr Declan Hall (Chair) [Designated Foundation Governor in September 2021]

Ms Denise McBay (Vice-Chair)

Mr Neil McGrath (Designated as a Foundation Governor in September 2019)

Ms Tessa Curry (Designated Foundation Governor in September 2021)

Parent Governors

Mr Richard Ross (Appointed September 2021)

Mrs Annie Davis (Appointed September 2021)

Teacher Representatives

Mr Damian McArdle (Resigned June 2022)

Mr Alan McPherson (September 2021)

Non-Voting Member / Secretary to the Board of Governors

Barry Corrigan (Principal)

Responsibility of the Governors

The role of the Board of Governors is to manage the school with a view to providing the best possible education and educational opportunities for all of the pupils. This involves:

- Setting the strategic direction of the school;
- Taking corporate decisions in relation to the statutory functions of the Board of Governors; and
- Promoting good governance.

Governors are responsible for the following aspects of the school:

Strategic Governance

- Setting the school's aims and visions

- Establishing and maintaining the school's ethos
- Setting the school's plans and policies
- Monitoring and evaluating the school's performance
- Promoting self-evaluation

Corporate Governance

- School performance measures
- School finances
- Curriculum planning
- Staff management – appointments, performance, welfare, etc.
- Pupil pastoral care, protection issues, health and safety, etc.
- Pupil admissions
- Publication of information regarding school and its pupils
- Managing the school premises and relations with the community

Responsibility for the day-to-day running of the school rests with the Principal, who advises the Governors on issues arising from this operational responsibility.

Arrangements for the next election of parents to the Board of Governors

There are currently places available for parent Governors and Foundation Governors on the Board. As well as that, we would be keen to invite members of the community onto the board if they have an interest in Integrated education. The Governors would specifically welcome representatives with a background in HR or with legal expertise. If you feel that you would like to get involved in the strategic running of the school, we would welcome nominations.

Review of the Past Year

As much as we tried to return to 'normality' over the academic year, 2021 – 2022 continued with its challenges. Children's routine of school was interrupted by COVID restrictions and absences caused by the continuing need to isolate on positive tests.

However, the school did remain committed to having as much of a normal year as possible after the impact of the closures, previously. Therefore, we restarted activities such as swimming for our Key Stage 2 classes and school trips across the school. We re-engaged with physical meetings with our Shared Education partner school, Carr Primary – which included Forest School trips and shared sports events.

As much as I acknowledge the hard work done to return to what was expected as a school, it would be remiss of me to also not acknowledge the impact these, and previous, disruptions had in the smooth running of the school. Indeed, at one point, having to return to the classroom as a P6 job-share teacher for a few months brought as much joy (to be back in amongst the children in the class) as it did workload! It wasn't ideal to have to move members of staff around to take account of the changes, however, I would like to thank you for your patience and thank the members of staff for their flexibility and support (and the P6 [now P7] class for reminding me why it was worth being a teacher first and foremost).

We also welcomed a number of notable visitors to the school during the year. In November, the then Minister for Education Michelle McIlveen visited the school and stayed for the whole

afternoon – beyond her allotted time – to see the work that was going on. She was welcomed with a demonstration of Irish Dancing and then presented with a painting of a poppy field which was completed by the P3 class for Remembrance Day. To me, this captured the essence of being a truly integrated school by acknowledging and celebrating the background cultures of our families. In February, we were visited by Dr Mark Browne (Permanent Secretary for Education) who had the opportunity to tour the school and hear about some of the work that went on during the pandemic as well as a general overview of the school's approach to School Development Planning. In May, the Northern Ireland Minister Mr Conor Burns also visited to get an overview of the school and how it approached the reopening after the pandemic. During his visit, we were again delighted to showcase some of the talents of the children as well as let him have a sit-down interview with them!

As well as these visits, we also had a day where we celebrated the platinum jubilee alongside the delayed celebrations for the 20th and 21st birthday of the school. It was a great day for all of the children and gave everyone an opportunity to gather outside and be together – something that had been a rarity up to this point. As an integrated school, it is important for us to recognise culturally significant events in Northern Ireland – opening conversation and debate. As principal, I was fortunate enough to visit Beirut in October / November 2021 to speak about education in fragile states to a collection of principals and government officials from all over the middle east and north Africa region (through the work of the British Council). Visits such as this, help develop an appreciation for the work we do on a daily basis – especially when compared to what I heard about from them as they fight for girls to have access to education or decide between heating and lighting through fuel rationing in the winter.

I would also like to pay tribute to the work of the Parents' Council in supporting the school over this time – in what were challenging times. Their continued efforts to support the children are valued throughout the school and this includes funding the school's online reading resource – Collins eReader. They gave a lot of their own time to arrange our new summer fayre in June and, blessed with great weather, it was a huge success. Such events are very difficult to put together and I pay tribute to all of their efforts and hard work. I am sure that they would be very grateful for any new members to get involved and support the continuing work.

Staff and Class Structure

Principal: Mr Barry Corrigan

Vice Principal: Mr Alan McPherson

Literacy Leader: Mrs Sue Fitzgerald

Numeracy Leader: Mrs Catherine Kingston

World Around Us Leader: Mr Brendan Donnelly

Shared Education Leader: Mr Brendan Donnelly

Creative Arts Leader: Miss Suzanne Smyth

Integration Leader: Mrs Rachel Bolingbroke

Foundation Leader: Mrs Sarah Mathison

Key Stage 1 Leader: Mrs Sue Fitzgerald

Key Stage 2 Leader: Mr Brendan Donnelly

Classroom Teachers

Nursery: Mrs Jennifer Houston

Primary 1: Miss Laura Armstrong / Mrs Lisa McMullen; Mrs Ruth Salazar

Primary 2: Mrs Sarah Mathison; Mrs Rachel Orderly / Mrs Catherine Kingston

Primary 3: Mrs Rachel Bolingbroke) / Mrs Eithne White

Primary 4: Mrs Sue Fitzgerald / Mrs Judith Taggart

Primary 5: Mr Rory Gardner / Mrs Zoe Heatherington; Mrs Hannah McKee

Primary 6: Miss Suzanne Smyth / Mr Damian McArdle

Primary 7: Mr Brendan Donnelly / Mr Alan McPherson

Learning Support Team

SENCo: Mr Justyn Mackay (Started January 2022)

Learning Support Teacher: Mrs Finn Magee

Classroom Assistants

Nursery: Stacey Walsh, Arlene Flynn

Primary 1: Marie Coiley, Mary-Anne McKervey

Primary 2: Helen McCullen, Elaine Devlin

Learning Support Assistants

Wendy Adair, Judith Boyle, Roisin Carson, Denise Davison, Louise Flynn, Lisa Foster, Jenny Hall, Jennifer Holden, Joanne McGrath, Fiona Robinson, Chloe Shannon, Rosemarie Stevenson, Michelle Whyte

Administration Team

Financial Administrator: Frances Lowry

Secretary: Beata Mis

School Meals: Suzanne Beattie, Ellen Woods, Eunyong Hwang

Parents Council Report 2021 - 2022

This was the year that we started to return to 'normality' after the Pandemic. We were still unable to meet in person for our meetings until May 2022, so mainly supported from afar through zoom calls with Mr Corrigan. We were limited therefore in our usual fundraising activities, but we were able to end the school year with, for the first time in years, our hugely successful Summer Fair. This was a wonderful chance to get the school community together and the sun shone on a great evening.

During the year the following parents, along with Principal, Mr Corrigan, made up the Committee:

Sarah-Jane Middleton (Chair)
Ryan Wilson (Secretary)
Cara Conn (Treasurer)
Nichola McSherry
Mary Gallen
Jillian Gilmore
Maryrose Cooper
Carmen Nevin
David Nevin
Emma O'Reilly
Emma Currie (until October 2021)
Suzanna Deehan
Shelley McPherson
Jennie Lucas
Will Lucas

We started the year with £7,391.91

We organised Halloween Crafts for the kids which brought in £81.00

We organised Christmas Cards which brought in £1,029.54

We provided the school with Easter eggs for competition winners -£33.00

Our main event was the Summer Fair which brought in £2,399.59

We ended the year with £10,867.04

We were delighted to end the year on such a high, and were looking forward to the coming year and returning to 'normal'. We are hoping to continue fundraising to provide new play equipment for the new build school.

Our overriding aim is to build a strong, productive and supportive partnership with the school community to ensure that the children have a positive and memorable learning experience from their time at Millennium.

It goes without saying that this year has been another successful one for the Parents Council. However, all of the above would not be achievable without the dedication and commitment

of Mr Corrigan and the wider staff group. We all work as a team to ensure we do the best for our school.

Enrolment

The permitted enrolment from the Department of Education is 392 and the school continues to meet the needs of the local community. The nursery has an enrolment of 52 – which is made up of an AM and PM session – both of which are considered part-time.

The Curriculum

Under the Education Reform Order, the responsibility of Governors for the curriculum, i.e. what is taught in the school, has been increased. The day-to-day organisation of the curriculum remains the Principal's responsibility.

It is a joint responsibility to ensure that a broad and balanced learning experience is provided for all children through the delivery of the Northern Ireland Curriculum. All staff have participated and continue to participate in training opportunities to broaden their knowledge and expertise in delivering the skills-based curriculum.

The curriculum in 2021 – 2022 began to come back to resembling what was in place prior to the pandemic. Although the majority of teaching was delivered in class, there were a number of times when there had to be remote learning in place to support children who were isolating.

When the school reopened in August 2021, we were still under a number of regulations and guidance in regards to using mitigations to prevent the spread of COVID. This meant that it was a few months before we could get back to proper 'normality' and mixing of classes – for example, at assembly. We continued to ensure that children had as full a learning experience as possible and this was reflected in seeing the internal assessments in school at the end of the year – where there was a definite 'COVID bounce' – underlining the importance and success of the approach the school took in settling children into school again.

There continued to be a reduction on formal assessments – with the Department of Education indicating that end of Key Stage assessments would not be required due to the continuing impact of COVID across Northern Ireland.

Entrance Tests

The series of unregulated entrance tests that Primary 7 children traditionally sit for those schools that use them went ahead – albeit with a reduction in content being assessed. Not all schools used the assessments (for example, Lagan College) but we expect that this would change going forward.

Religious Education

As an integrated school, we teach Religious Education through the agreed Christian syllabus designed by the four main churches in Northern Ireland. From Primary 2 through to Primary 7, each class has a designated world faith which is explored during Integrated Education Week.

We ensure that we celebrate, together, religious traditions which might be perceived to belong to one side or the other of the two main traditions in Northern Ireland. We prepare our Roman

Catholic children for the Sacrament of Reconciliation in Primary 3, First Holy Communion in P4 and the Sacrament of Confirmation in Primary 7. Traditionally, ministers from a number of local Protestant churches would visit school on a rota basis. These are special events in the life of our school and are important aspects of our work as an integrated school.

However, there continued to be significant impact on the children's preparations for, and making of Sacraments, due to the pandemic. We worked closely with parishes to support the children at this time but there were also inevitable disruptions and delays. This meant that sacraments went ahead in a very different format compared to previous years as well as those children who missed sacraments the previous year, being given the opportunity to get involved in the rearranged services.

The assemblies and annual Carol service were also cancelled at this time. The school will continue to explore ways of reintegrating these important areas of school life.

Creative Arts

The creative arts, especially music, was impacted greatly by the COVID pandemic. There was no opportunity for the school choir or even class singing due to the guidance around this area. With mitigations in place, the sharing of equipment was also difficult, though classes did what they could manage in the classrooms.

Miss Suzanne Smyth was appointed as Creative Arts Leader in the school and has been working on developing an Action Plan to develop this area in Millennium. Hopefully, as life has returned to normal, this will become much easier.

Arrangements for children with Special Needs

We continue to be a highly inclusive school and we offer a wide range of support throughout the school for children with specific needs. As well as the Numeracy support, the school also provides access to a sensory room, Fidget boxes, Anxiety resources, social skills groups and small group Literacy. We continue to have close and productive relationships with all the professionals who work in partnership with the school to meet the needs of the children in our school.

The work in supporting the children with the range of complex needs is challenging and there was definitely no 'one size fits all' solution. We understand that parents want the very best for their children – especially as they are some of our most vulnerable in the school. It is important that we continue to evaluate what we do as a school to ensure that we offer the best possible experience for the children. Therefore, we will aim to adapt and support to the best of the ability and expertise within the school.

Mr Mackay's role as Learning Support Coordinator within the school is to provide support and advice to teachers and parents regarding the identified needs of children and the best way to support them within the classroom. We work with a wide range of professionals who have responsibility for providing external support for children which cannot be met within school. Mrs Magee also took on the role of additional curriculum support for children for two days a week along with an additional support day.

Safeguarding Children

Mr McPherson is the Designated Teacher for Child Protection with Mrs Kingston, Mrs Houston (nursery) and Mrs Magee as the Deputy Designated Teacher team. All teachers with Child Protection responsibilities have received training from the Education Authority. Millennium has a confidential recording system for information about suspicion of abuse, disclosure of abuse and complaints against staff. Child Protection training is delivered to all staff during the August training days and all staff are made aware of our Child Protection Policy and our staff Code of Conduct.

A detailed monthly report is provided to the Board of Governors by the Designated Teacher and this includes details of actions the school is undertaking in relation to safeguarding. An annual report on child protection is given to the Board of Governors by the Designated Governor for Child Protection. All staff and volunteers are vetted through the AccessNI in accordance to DE circulars and current legislation.

The safeguarding team now meets half-termly and the team has been streamlined to have a member of each Key Stage and the Nursery. The Governor rep is also invited to these meetings – where issues of a child protection matter are discussed, as well as pastoral concerns including attendance and punctuality of children.

Healthy Eating

Our focus on healthy eating practices is very important to the present and future well-being of the children. Through the curriculum, visitors to school, snacks at break time, packed lunches, school dinners and our annual Healthy Lifestyle Week we have continued to raise the profile of the importance of a healthy lifestyle. The school receives its catering from an outside provider, Ballinderry Inns, who provide school dinners set to the nutritional standard of EA and DE. Parents are also encouraged to provide healthy food in lunches.

This usually culminates in sports day taking place in the Carryduff GAA sports fields which we were able to run again, after the break due to COVID in the previous year.

Sport

At Millennium, we were offering the children the opportunity to experience a range of sports as part of the Physical Education curriculum as well as through the range of after-school clubs. We aim to increase the children's awareness of the benefits of sport and sporting activities in terms of healthy lifestyles, physical well-being and the value of teamwork.

After school support continued to be impacted by COVID mitigations and this meant that many of the traditional events between schools were reduced / cancelled. However, as the year did return to normality, we were able to reintroduce after-school sports.

The Board of Governors recognise the importance of these offerings in school, however, the Board also had a duty to follow the appropriate guidance offered to schools at the time.

After-school clubs

We introduced limited after-school clubs through the year – including football and other sports. It was clear that this was an important part of school life that was missed

School Bus

We continue to run a school bus to and from Carryduff. There are between 40 and 50 children regularly taking the bus in the afternoon and this continued through the challenging times of 2021 – 2022.

At the end of the school year, we were delighted when Translink confirmed that they would support the school in running a dedicated afternoon service for Saintfield.

Kids' Corner

Marie Coiley and Sue Hill continue to provide an excellent service for the school community through their Breakfast Club (open from 7:30 am) and the after-school provision which is open Monday to Friday until 6:00 pm. This provision is available to families both in term time and during the school holidays.

Developing links with the local community

The opportunities to work with the local community were, again, truncated this year.

We did restart work on our Shared Education projects with Carr Primary – engaging in a range of activities including Forest School activities and sporting activities for the older children. As with such projects, we are reliant on external funding for the hire of buses, etc.

Cross-Phase links with Local Secondary Schools

Post-primary schools adopted a range of strategies for working with us as a school. Most maintained a virtual open evening – though we were able to host a number of visits from schools, too.

School Development Plan

The School Development Plan cycle was vastly interrupted by the pandemic and was extended through suggestion from DE. The initial three-year plan of the SDP could not be enacted due to the range of disruptions and impact from COVID. However, the governors feel that the Outcomes approach reinforces the school as being a dynamic and forward-thinking one.

The Three Outcomes for Millennium Integrated PS are:

Our children are, and feel, safe

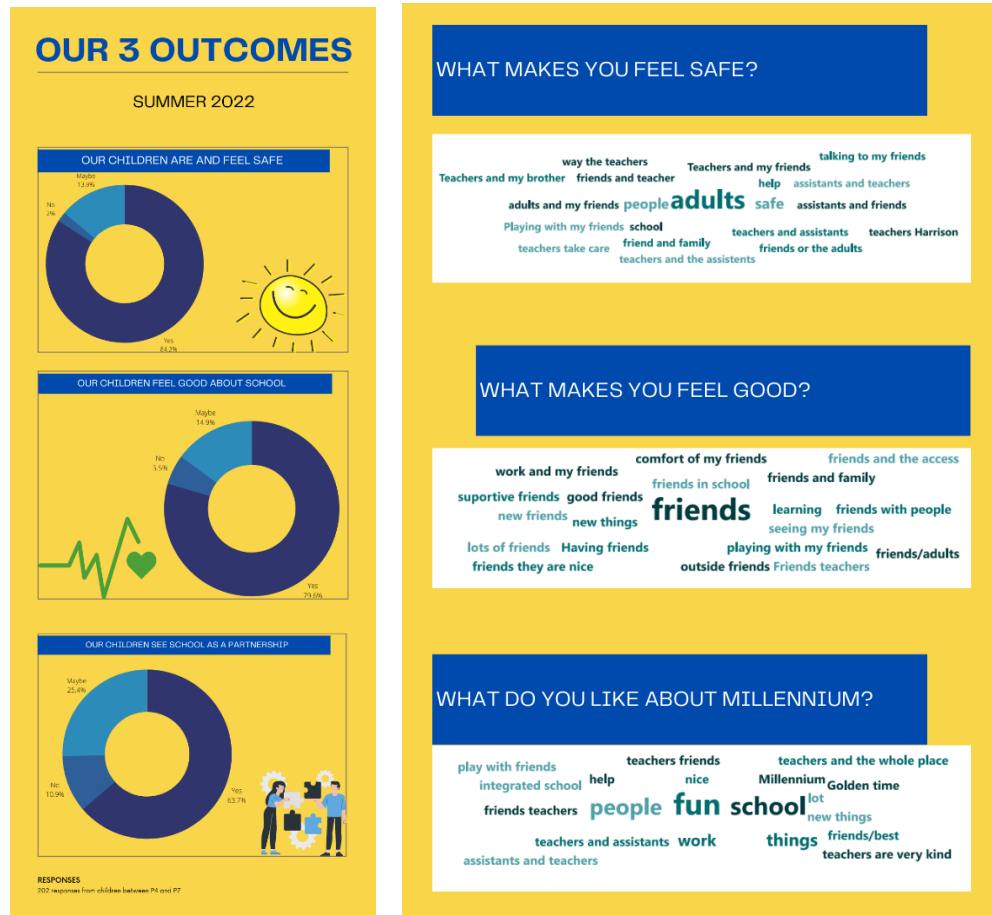
Our Children feel good about school

Our Children see school as a partnership

Lead teachers in subjects scaled back their Action Plans to take account of the changes. They had their responsibilities redeployed in the school to provide ongoing support for colleagues in delivering the curriculum under the difficult circumstances. We were also aware that there were significant changes in personnel for areas from September as the Numeracy, Creative Arts and

Integration responsibilities were to be opened for application. As well as this, the change in Key Stage leadership will have impacted on the SDP.

We started assessing the impact of the SDP with the children, too. Our feedback from the children was a good insight to how they feel within the school as well as helping us set a focus for the coming SDP.



The feedback, above, was generated from the responses the children gave to our annual survey. It also indicated the importance of the relationships between staff and children in the school to ensure that children feel ready to learn.

Use of INSET and School Development Days

The earlier start to the school year and the circumstances under which the school opened, meant that the initial few INSET days in school were based around how the school would practically run under the mitigations that were in place.

Time in August was mainly spent in developing the school strategy for opening and the approach to working with the children on return.

The school has completed training in areas such as the new anti-bullying strategy and the requirements for the new SEND legislation that will be put in place. Days were also used for the dissemination of new Reading Scheme resources (Collins eReader Scheme) as well as preparing for the announced lockdown in January.

Assessment

Pupils are formally assessed at the end of Key Stage 1 (P4) and at the end of Key Stage 2 (P7). The assessments are normally carried out throughout the year, with a final 'Level' being reported in the end of year report.

Government targets recommend that the majority of children in P4 will reach Level 2 (and above) and that the majority of children in P7 will reach Level 4 (and above). It is the exception that children will reach Level 3 in Primary 4 and Level 5 in Primary 7.

There was no formal assessment, this year, in line with the DE direction. We did carry out end of year internal assessments, however, this was off the back of the lockdown period that occurred from January to April.

Targets for 2021 - 2022

The Department of Education is continuing to review the impact of COVID on assessment and there is a continuing pause in completing and reporting end of Key Stage Assessments.

Premises

The school has reached its double enrolment throughout all classes. All available space is being used in the school – though we are ensuring that there are spaces available for SEN support and visiting professionals. This reduction in external space, though, continues to put pressure on the space we have available for the children to play.

The Buildings committee of the Board of Governors inspect the building on an annual basis and highlight areas that may need attention. It is recognised that there are areas of the school building that require ongoing maintenance, however, given the proximity of the beginning of the new build, the governors are delaying any substantial works until certainty has been granted in regards to a start date.

Accessibility

The premises are generally accessible to all people. We have made and will continue to make necessary adjustments to take account of children and adults with particular needs.

Security

The school has a security camera system that monitors the front entrance to the school and the accessible area at the back gate. There is a buzzer entry system for both the pupil entrance and the main entrance. All visitors must sign in and are given a visitor's badge. They are also given a leaflet explaining some key child protection policies and procedure

Financial Statement for the year ending 31st March 2022

School's budget for 2021-2022	
Surplus carried forward	£138,005
Department of Education Grants	£2,125,599
Other Operating Income	£530
Total Resources available to school	£2,126,129
Total Expenditure	£2,023,543
Reserves / Balance Carried Forward	£240,591

A full copy of the school's end-of-year audited accounts is available on request from the school.

Limited Company Accounts

Latest accounts dated year ended 31st March 2021. The balance for the financial year was £35,294.

Thanks

Finally, the Governors would like to express their thanks to everyone associated with Millennium in any capacity to make it a continued success.