

LITTLE HADHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

Governors' Newsletter – July 2016



'Believing and Achieving'

Another great year at Little Hadham but where has the time gone! This term we have seen some changes in the Governing Body and would like to thank Patrick Wells and Marcel Ranade for their commitment to the Governing Body during their time of office.

We are really pleased to welcome some new faces on board;

New Parent Governor: Emma Claremont

"I have a child in the lower half of the school and I live in Little Hadham. I worked for 10 years as a lawyer in the City, have spent the last year as a stay at home mum, and I am currently setting up my own business.

I love our school and I am really passionate about supporting both it and the teachers so they can provide our children with the best educational experience possible. I will persuade, support and challenge those involved in our school in trying to achieve it".

New Parent Governor: Liz Lloyd-Williams

"I have a background managing teams of health researchers and, liaising across organisations, ensuring that research leads to actual health benefits. I sit on the Little Hadham Parish Council and have been the chair since 2015.

I am a parent at Little Hadham Primary School, having one son starting reception in September 2016, and another going into year 2. I strongly believe in state education. Our school provides high quality education for our children and my aim as a governor will be to provide challenge and support towards ensuring this continues and develops".

Governor Training

Since September governors have attended a number of training sessions including; Financial Management, New HFL Approach to Assessment in Primary Schools, Effective Governance, Effective School Visits, Ofsted briefing and the Government's strategy to prevent violent extremism (PREVENT). We're always keen to keep up-to-date and attend as many as the Local Authority's courses as we can.

Parent Views

Just before Easter the governors asked parents to respond to 22 questions via a questionnaire. There were 4 possible answers to each question;

- Strongly Agree,
- Agree
- Strongly Disagree
- Disagree.

We were really pleased to get back 74 completed forms. We fed back the responses at the parent/governor forum earlier this term, but for those of you who were not there, here is a flavour of what parents think of our school;

- The number of positive responses was very high for all the questions, in 9 cases 100%. In all but a couple of the other answers the positive responses were all over 90%.
- 100% of parents said they are happy with the school and would recommend it;
- 97% said their child is happy at school and 100% that their child is looked after well;
- 100% said they were pleased with the level of support teachers provide to help parents with learning at home; 97% think the school actively seeks to work in partnership with parents.
- Everyone thinks the school is well led.

- There were a couple of slightly less positive answers. 16% (11 parents) did not think governors provide sufficient information – hence our parent/governor forums and this newsletter. Going forward, we will try harder to communicate with you.
- Three parents thought there was too much homework, but another 3 thought there was not enough. In response to the comments received about supporting children with their homework, the school will be introducing a Homework Club next term.

Thank you to all those who took the time to respond. Next time we would like even more people to be able to answer ‘Strongly Agree’, so please let either a member of staff or one of the governors know what you think we can do to be even better. A full set of answers is available from the office.

Parental Governor Engagement on 13th May;

We always enjoy speaking with you and thank you for taking the time to speak to us and share your thoughts and ideas.

Please find below our response to some of the main points discussed;

- Wrap around care
A meeting has been held with the County advisor on after school provision. Preliminary talks between Mrs Stockley, governors and after school providers are currently under way and we look forward to informing you further in the autumn term.
- Parents raised concern on how they can be reassured that every incident is recorded and followed through.
 - This was looked into in detail during our last governor visit and the formal process was followed through
 - The Accident and Incident log is annotated by the member of staff who observes it
 - Immediate action taken is recorded
 - Any follow up and impact is recorded
 - The name of the member of staff who deals with the incident is recorded.
 - Checked by the Head/SMT daily.
 - Escalated to the head, if appropriate.
 - Parents informed, if needed.
 - The Accident and Incident Log is monitored termly by a member of the governing body for any patterns or trends. A statistical analysis is presented to Governors.
- The suggestion from parents of an open afternoon, where parents can have look at their child’s work with them, has been forwarded to the head. More news on this next term.
- Attendance – Regular monitoring and parental support has had a very positive impact on our attendance figures, which are above national expectation at 96.5% for this year. This is to be celebrated.

Future Parent Governor Engagement;

For our next parent governor meeting we propose a practical presentation from Mrs Nicklin on Forest School in the autumn term, which we hope will coincide with our official accreditation as a ‘Forest school’.



Finally, summer has arrived and we hope that everyone has a restful summer break this year. We would like to say thank you to those parents whose children are moving on for all your contribution to the success of our school. We would also like to wish our year 6 pupils all the best for next term.

Thank you for your continued support.
The Governing Body