

News from the Little Hadham Governors: May 2018

Our new headteacher

No doubt you will have been waiting with keen interest for information about the person who will take over from Mrs Stockley in September. I'm sure you won't be surprised that before the appointment could be confirmed and contracts signed there have been a number of administrative hurdles for us to jump over. Thankfully we have now completed them all and so, on behalf of the Governors, I can share the following information with you.

We are delighted to share with you that we have appointed Ms S Connolly as our new headteacher.

Members of the panel and Ms Connolly were equally excited by the decision we reached. She is a very experienced senior leader, who in addition to her work as a Hertfordshire deputy headteacher also provides support for other schools. She will take over as our headteacher from September.

From the start of the appointment process Governors were clear that we would not appoint until we were sure that we had a worthy successor to Mrs Stockley; someone who will maintain and build on the many strengths of the school. We were very pleased to attract ten applicants for the post at a time when headteacher recruitment is not easy. Ms Connolly greatly impressed the members of the appointment panel and the two advisers we employed from Herts For Learning, in what was a rigorous and very thorough process. Ms Connolly was our unanimous choice.

We are of course very pleased that Ms Connolly is taking over a school rated by Ofsted as Good with Outstanding features and with an excellent body of experienced staff. To ensure a smooth handover Ms Connolly is already working with Mrs Stockley and governors to ensure a smooth transition.

Thanks go to members of the School Council who played a valuable part in the process by questioning the candidates. They were a credit to the school.

Thanks also to Mrs Nicklin, who agreed to have her teaching watched by all the candidates, whilst in turn being observed by the recruitment panel.

Additionally, special thanks to Mrs Stockley for her valuable advice and support throughout the process.

Keith Hutt: Chair of Governors

A message from Ms Connolly

It is a privilege to have been appointed Headteacher of Little Hadham Primary and entrusted with the job of leading such a delightful school. I am determined that the school builds on its past successes and continues to flourish and maintain its position at the heart of our community. I am looking forward to working with parents/carers, governors, staff and students as we strive for even greater outcomes for all our young people.

The Ofsted Inspection

As you will be aware our school was inspected in March this year. Hopefully you will have read the letter confirming that the school continues to be solidly Good with Outstanding features. If not, you can find a copy on our website. The inspector highlighted many of the school's strengths, including:

- parents' recognition of the quality and impact of Mrs Stockley's leadership;
- that pupils love the school;
- staff are proud to work at Little Hadham
- that parents say that Mrs Stockley is 'totally dedicated to making the school the best it can be'
- that the early years unit is a fantastic environment: welcoming, friendly and safe.

We know that by far the majority of current parents recognise and value the quality and breadth of experiences their children receive at Little Hadham. However, being on the edge of Stortford with a Ware postcode means that not all prospective parents hear about or consider sending their children to our school.

Encouraging prospective parents you know to consider our school is therefore a really valuable way that current parents can make a real difference.

Feedback from Parent Consultations

The Governors last carried out a paper survey of parents' views during the consultation evenings in March. We received 67 replies, the results of which are published overleaf. It is great that they were overwhelmingly positive. Alongside the questionnaires 25 parents added comments. The majority were positive, with many praising and thanking Mrs Stockley.

Some issues raised were:

The car park. We share your frustrations. Disappointingly after many months of negotiations we were thwarted both by the refusal of Herts Planning to agree to our proposed alterations and lack of County support. Nevertheless, we are still very actively pursuing possible improvements.

Homework. As you can see from answers 8 and 9 overleaf most parents think we are getting this right. However, staff have considered feedback received from a couple of parents.

After school clubs. The main issue raised was a request for more clubs aimed at younger children. This has resulted in the introduction of KS1 football, archery for years 3 and 4 and cricket now including year 3.

Continued focus on French and Forest School. Ms Connolly is very keen that both will continue to flourish and develop under her leadership.

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Results of the Little Hadham School Parent Questionnaire Spring 2018.

| | Strongly Agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly Disagree | Don't Know | No answer | % Positive |
|---|----------------|-------|----------|-------------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| 1. My child is happy at our school | 50 | 18 | | | | | 100 |
| 2. My child has friends at our school | 47 | 21 | | | | | 100 |
| 3. My child feel safe at our school | 53 | 15 | | | | | 100 |
| 4. My child makes good progress at our school | 32 | 36 | | | | | 100 |
| 5. My child is well looked after at our school | 52 | 16 | | | | | 100 |
| 6. My child is taught well at our school | 47 | 21 | | | | | 100 |
| 7. I find my child's teacher to be approachable and the school encourages me to be a partner in my child's education | 53 | 15 | | | | | 100 |
| 8. My child receives appropriate homework for their age | 33 | 31 | 4 | | | | 94 |
| 9. I feel that my child's teacher supports me to be able to help with learning at home | 42 | 24 | 2 | | | | 97 |
| 10. The school provides a good range of activities outside of lessons | 37 | 24 | 4 | | | 3 | 90 |
| 11. The school ensures the pupils are well behaved | 39 | 27 | | | | 2 | 97 |
| 12. The school deals effectively with any bullying issues | 33 | 21 | 1 | | 11 | 2 | 79 |
| 13. The school is well led and managed | 45 | 19 | 1 | | | 3 | 94 |
| 14. The school communicate effectively with parents | 36 | 29 | 1 | | | 2 | 96 |
| 15. The school takes account of children's views | 35 | 29 | | | | 4 | 94 |
| 16. The School seeks to work in partnership with parents by gathering their views and takes account of their suggestions and concerns | 35 | 29 | | 1 | | 3 | 94 |
| 17. I feel confident in approaching the school regarding issues/concerns I may have | 48 | 16 | 1 | | | 3 | 94 |
| 18. I feel that Governor/Parent Forum meetings are an effective communication tool | 31 | 25 | | 1 | | 11 | 82 |
| 19. I receive the appropriate level of information from governors | 33 | 31 | | | | 4 | 94 |
| 20. The school has sufficient resources and facilities to support all aspects of my child's experience of school | 35 | 31 | 1 | | | 1 | 97 |
| 21. Overall, I am happy with our school | 50 | 17 | | | | 1 | 99 |
| 22. I would recommend this school | 50 | 17 | | | | 1 | 99 |

NB: Question 12. If 'Don't Knows' and 'No Answer' are excluded the answers score 98%

Questions 21 and 22. These answers score 100% if the parent who did not answer is not included.

Question 18. These answers score 98% if 'Don't Know' answers are excluded.