

LITTLE HADHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

Governors' Newsletter – December 2016



'Believing and Achieving'

It's nearly that magical time of year again and the children have all done amazingly well in their Christmas performances this term and helped us all get in the mood for Christmas.

We have listed the governor roles and responsibilities in the table below and hope that this gives you more information about what we do and each governor's link subjects and classes at Little Hadham Primary school.

Governors Roles & Responsibilities (Updated December 2016)

Governor	Category	Role & Link	Committee
Lesley Calder	Co-opted	Chair of Governors	Curriculum/Resources
Keith Hutt	Co-opted	Vice-Chair, Health & Safety, Governor Development, R E	Curriculum/ Resources
Rob Brown	Co-opted	ICT, Website,	Resources
Dani Leak	Co-opted	Inclusion, Anti-bullying, Personal Social and Health Education, PE, Ash & Saplings	Curriculum
Darian Compton	Co-opted	Safeguarding, Children Looked After, Music, Lime Class	Resources
Emma Claremont	Parent	Pupil Voice, English, Modern Foreign Languages, Willow Class	Resources
Liz-Lloyd-Williams	Parent	Pupil Voice, History, Geography, Maths, Maple Class	Curriculum
Gulten Dogan	Parent	Pupil Premium, Sports Premium, Science, Beech Class	Curriculum
Mrs E Stockley	Hea teacher	Headteacher	Curriculum/Resources
Mrs L Tweedale	Staff	Chair of Curriculum	Curriculum
Vacancy	Local Authority		To be agreed
Vacancy	Parent		To be agreed

Governor/Parent Festive Forums.

Thank you to those parents who supported the Governor-Parent Festive Forums this term. The forum held on the 6th December proved to be very popular with those parents who were at the school for pick up after the Pantomime.

Please find below our response to some of the questions you have raised;

Q. How Are Teaching Assistants Assigned To Classes?

A. Every class has the equivalent of a full time TA. Additional staffing is provided at the younger end to enable a strong start, with increasing independence expected higher up the school. Mrs Stockley reviews staffing allocations every year according to expertise and experience, as well the specific needs at the time.

Q. Can The School Match Fund?

A. Some companies offer their staff access to up to £1000 to support charities. The scheme requires the chosen charity to raise funds for an identified project, which the company then doubles. Matched funding has to be linked to a Charity, which is why for the school this has to be undertaken through the 'FRIENDS'. We are very generously supported by matched funding via a couple of parents. If your company offers this scheme- you may have to ask, please let the FRIENDS know, so a possible project can be agreed.

Q. Can there be more school trips?

A. There are a number of challenges relating to trips. This term, as is usual, trips have been highly subsidised from the school budget. Coaches, even for a short trip, cost at least £350 and often much more. If we add that on to that an entrance fee, commonly £10 or more, then parents should be paying at least £20 per trip. Understandably this is not popular with many parents. Of course we also need to ensure that trips are worthwhile and relevant to the children's learning. If we factor in costs for residential trips – say £150+ and £350+ for Mersea and Kingswood, we are already asking parents for a lot - let alone other expenses such as weekly swimming costs!

Q. Can We Have More Curriculum Weeks?

A. The aim is to have one a term. However, there is a great deal of statutory curriculum content to deliver and this cannot always be done through Theme Weeks and, of course, they take a great deal of additional time to organise – but they are good fun!

Q. Can There Be More Science?

A. Science week received a lot of positive feedback both from the children and from parents. The aim is to repeat a Science focus each term, but maybe in a different format. All classes have weekly science lessons to cover the curriculum.

Q. Can There Be More After School Clubs - Especially For KS1 Boys? What happened to Street Dance?

A. Street Dance did not go ahead due to lack of numbers, which has generally been the case for other clubs suggested in the past. Clubs run by outside providers have to be financially sustainable, so a minimum number is generally required. Once 'Night Owls After School' starts in February, that is also likely to have an impact, since, at least occasionally, they will need to use the hall.

Q. Maths' club

A. Fun mental maths games, covering all four operations, are played as a warm up. Then the main part of each session focuses on Maths Reasoning e.g. multi step word problems (again, covering the four operations) and revising and extending any key concepts already taught in lesson time.

Maths Club also reflects areas that have proved tricky in class the previous week, so that they can clarify any misunderstandings. This will vary from week to week. Our Y6 children should be able to tell/show their parents what they have been doing - then parents can help them further.

We were also very happy to receive a number of positive comments from parents;

- Christmas Crafts Day was very successful.
- Science Week was very successful.
- Great to have Parents in for drinks + mince pies on the night of the Panto.

Finally, we would like to wish everyone a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Thank you for your continued support.

The Governing Body