

News from the Governors at Little Hadham

Recruiting a new headteacher

For the last 14 years Little Hadham has been led by Mrs Stockley and, without doubt, a major reason for it being such a great school is the quality of her leadership. Finding the right person to replace her will be both challenging and exciting - an activity that is already underway.

We are fortunate that Mrs Stockley has given the governors almost a year's notice of her retirement next summer so there is time for us to think about the qualities we want in our new headteacher.

If things go well our plan is to make an appointment by next Easter so that the new headteacher will be able to work with Mrs Stockley to ensure a smooth handover.

As part of our planning we would like to hear the views of parents about the qualities you would like to see in our new headteacher. We will expect him or her to maintain and build on the school's many current strengths, whilst also introducing some new and exciting developments.

Please would you share your thoughts via one of the following: email me; write (via the school office), using an envelope addressed to me or; talk to governors whilst you wait for your son(s) or daughter(s) to return from the pantomime on 10th December. Governors will be available at other times to talk to early years' parents.

The governors will bring together their own thoughts, together with those from pupils, parents and staff to decide which skills and personal qualities we will be particularly emphasising in our recruitment information

Keith Hutt: Chair of Governors

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Our Car Park

Without any doubt, by far the thing most complained about at our school - and, to be fair, most others - is traffic and parking. Finding a solution has been an ongoing challenge for many years and we still haven't come up with an outcome we are happy with - challenges include satisfying highway regulations, but unsurprisingly are particularly about sourcing funding for a redesign. However, things may be moving!

Over recent months we have again been in discussions with both Highways and the County Council and are hopeful that we will be able to share some good news on this sometime in the new year. We will keep you posted about further developments as and when we know them. In the longer term the new by-pass will make a massive difference, but we appreciate that's a couple of years or so away.

Meanwhile we ask that those of you who can walk your children to school do so and that if you are held up by other parents' cars you are as patient as possible.

Governor Day 17th October 2017

Focus: Writing

Governors recently spent a busy morning observing teaching and learning, with a particular focus on writing. They were able to see a variety of approaches to writing and had opportunities to talk to children about their work. Emergent writing in the Early Years, composing and editing writing at Key Stage 1 and a 'Big Write' at Key Stage 2 are just a few of the writing activities they observed. Governors commented on how 'enthusiastic' our children were to share their writing and how lovely the 'creative buzz' was in lessons. Governors reported that children were happy to share many positive comments about how they are supported by their teachers to improve their writing such as using the 'magpie' technique. Many thanks to the governors for visiting on this day and to our children who provided such a warm welcome and proudly shared their writing.

In the afternoon governors attended a training session on headteacher recruitment.

Lucy Tweedale: Deputy Head /

Staff Governor / English Subject Leader

The governors and their lead responsibilities?

Mrs Stockley:	Headteacher
Mrs Tweedale:	Chair of the Curriculum Committee
Keith Hutt:	Chair; RE and worship; governor development
Emma Claremont:	Vice chair; English
Rob Brown:	Chair of Resources; ICT; website; health and safety
Lesley Calder:	
Darian Compton:	Safeguarding; Children looked after; child protection; anti-bullying; Music.
Gulten Dogan:	Pupil premium; Sports' Grant and Science
Dani Leak:	Inclusion; Early Years; Personal, social and health education; and Wellbeing
Liz Lloyd-Williams:	Maths and Forest school
David Ratnage:	History and Geography
David Willett:	Modern foreign languages and PE

What do the governors do?

Together with Mrs Stockley, we are responsible and accountable for key decisions about the school and its future. Mrs Stockley provides regular reports to keep us informed and we spent time each term in school seeing things for ourselves. The governors agree objectives and targets, approve policies, set the school budget and monitor progress against the budget. We act as a 'critical friend' to Mrs Stockley by monitoring the school's performance and by providing her with support, challenge and evaluation.

A current key responsibility of the governors is to ensure the successful appointment of our new headteacher.

