



Highfield Primary School

Highfield Governors' Newsletter

Autumn 2015

Chair: Nancy Lester - nancy.lester70@gmail.com

Vice Chair: Margaret Maiden - margaret_maiden@yahoo.com

Welcome!

We wanted to take this opportunity to introduce Highfield Governors and share with you some of our work.

Who's Who?

Each year we review membership and roles. Although there are still lots of familiar faces, there has also been some changes to the Governing body.

New Governors

We welcome new Governors **Ashutosh Paul**, **Shireen Ghopal** and **Sam Ross**.

Ashutosh Paul -

"I am dad to Mala who is now in year 1 and is thoroughly enjoying school. I wanted to get involved with the Governing Body as I felt I could use my professional skills as a commercial lawyer to bring some real value to Highfield. As well as the full Governing Body I also sit on the Resources sub-committee. I support by bringing ideas and constructively challenging the great work that Jane Denton, Julie Colley and others do in ensuring the school spends its money wisely and stays within its budget."

Shireen Ghopal -

"Hi, I work as a paediatrician at the LGI. I live locally and have recently become a mother to a three-year-old girl and a ten-month-old boy. I am aware of how important it is to possess a well-rounded education and I believe that primary school plays a critical role in a child's development - supporting healthy, happy child who are fit for learning. In terms of specific skills, given my background I can offer a detailed understanding of how education and health work together to provide the best resources for the younger generation. I am delighted to join the Governing Body at Highfield and look forward to getting to know and contributing to the school."

Sam Ross -

"Hello, I work as a teaching assistant within school and some parents may already know me. I am aware of how important a healthy and inclusive school environment is to enable all children to achieve their potential. I am also the parent to a child in year 4 at Highfield and have seen the opportunities available to him and feel strongly that these should be available to all children. I am very pleased to join the Governing body at Highfield and look forward to contributing to the school."

Associate Governors

We are keen to draw on the expertise and interests available across the school and support particular areas of work through the role of Associate Governors. We welcome the following Associate Governors:

Steve Binns - Associate Member - Resources Sub Committee (Buildings)

Mark Rudd - Associate Member - PE. Supporting the school's PE curriculum and working with staff to identify and promote opportunities in this area.

Class Governors

Each year classes are assigned a link governor. Governors get to know the class, keep up to date (getting involved where possible) with activities, visits and events and visit their link class at least once a year.

A list of all the Governors and their roles is on the school website. This also includes the name of the governor linked to your child/ren's class(es).

Meetings and Sub-Committees

The full Governing Body meets 5 times. The next meeting is on Tuesday 1st December.

Each year, at their last (summer) meeting Governors take part in a learning walk where they can explore and experience the impact of the teaching and learning over the year, with a particular focus on the school's priority areas. This is a great way of seeing the creative and diverse approaches being implemented across the school - essential in ensuring pupil

progress. (The summer 2015 newsletter reports on last year's learning walk).

In addition there are **three Sub-Committees**. These all take particular responsibilities for different school improvement priorities (see this year's priority areas below)

Resources Sub Committee- Chair Sheryl Richmond.

The purpose of the Resources Committee is to discuss finance, personnel issues, and all matters relating to the buildings and site of the School. An important role is to ensure that the school spending remains within budget and that all funds are spent wisely to best meet the needs of the children.

Overseeing and supporting the **school hall extension** is a priority for the resources sub-committee this year. So too is the ongoing school infrastructure improvement programme and ensuring health and safety across school.

Teaching and Learning Sub-Committee - Chair Margaret Maiden

The main purpose of the Teaching and Learning Committee is to discuss and monitor all aspects of the school's work around pupil attainment and progress, and ensure that the school's curriculum is broad and balanced and meets statutory requirements.

This academic year one of our School Improvement Priorities involves reviewing assessment procedures in line with the national curriculum and the removal of attainment levels. Standards in English and Mathematics

are already high at Highfield and, by making sure we adapt and adjust our Assessment procedures to take account of the recently revised National Curriculum, we can ensure standards continue to rise in these important curriculum areas.

Pupil Support Sub-Committee - Chair Claire Hills

The purpose of the Pupil Support committee is to discuss and monitor all aspects of the school's pastoral work. This includes: behaviour; safeguarding; attendance; children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development; children, parent and staff voice; extra-curricular activities; cluster and other partnerships.

Governors with specific responsibilities include:

Lisa Henry - Child Protection and Supporting Children with Medical Needs

Claire Hills - Special Educational Needs and Disability

This year one of our School Improvement Priorities involves ensuring the high standards of behaviour at Highfield are maintained by revisiting social, emotional and mental health and wellbeing provision. The autumn term has seen a comprehensive review of Highfield's behaviour and anti-bullying policies and the launch of the Highfield "Rights and Responsibilities behaviour charter". These can be viewed on the Highfield website.

<http://highfield-primary.co.uk/>

Highfield recently launched its new website. It's well worth a visit!

Admissions

The extra class in reception is working well and arrangements and routines are in place to ensure all 90 reception children are fully integrated and settled within the school.

I am sure you will agree that the new modular building offers a fantastic resource for the before and after school provision. It is also being used extensively for learning by groups and classes throughout the school day.

Thank you to everyone who was involved in this work - in particular Mr Walsh, Superintendent and Mrs Denton, Business Manager and the Reception and Year 1 staff.

Plans are being developed for the school hall extension and we will keep everyone updated with developments here. We have governor (Steve Binns) and parent (Matt Jones) representation on the school hall working group.

We are confident that the result will further improve the learning environment for all children at Highfield!

Our school open day for potential new children starting September 2016 was on Thursday 19th November and was very successful.

Road Safety

A meeting took place earlier this month with the local council and involved parents and staff to discuss road safety and crossings concerns around Highfield. It provided an opportunity to discuss the current issues and agree actions to be taken to improve the safety of our families when journeying to school.

The meeting was productive and a follow up meeting will be held on December 4th. The Road Crossing Patrol Unit have been conducting a survey to decide whether we qualify for a crossing patrol warden. We hope to hear the results from that survey soon.

Parking around the school

Ensuring the safety of our children is of paramount concern to everyone associated with Highfield.

Please can we remind everyone to park thoughtfully on the streets around school when dropping on and collecting children.

In particular do not park on the zig zags near the entrance to school, block resident's drives or park on the grassy green area.

The Walking bus is a great alternative to getting to school. Contact the school office for more information.

Thank you for your consideration

2015 School Improvement Plan

This year's school improvement priorities are:

- **Priority One:** To ensure the achievement of children who are eligible for pupil premium remains as high as that of other groups.
- **Priority Two:** To ensure our high standards in Maths and English are maintained in line with the curriculum end key stage attainment targets.
- **Priority Three:** To ensure our high standards of behaviour in school are maintained in school by revisiting social, emotional and mental health and wellbeing provision in school.
- **Priority Four:** To review assessment procedure in line with the national curriculum and the removal of attainment levels
- **Priority Five:** To continue to improve the school infrastructure - part of a 5 year plan.

We will report back on progress in future newsletters

The Friends continue to do an excellent job. The next half term is a busy time for them. We encourage everyone to get involved as much as you can!

Remember to do any online Christmas Shopping through [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) as it is a great way of raising money for the school - and doesn't cost a penny.

<http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/highfieldprimary>