



# Highfield Primary School

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## School Governors Newsletter

January 2014



After a busy Autumn term and a good, and hopefully relaxing(!), Christmas break, we wanted to wish all Highfield parents, carers and children a very happy and prosperous 2014. The first term of the 12/13 academic year was full of activity and successes and, based on the start so far, we know the Spring term will be

the same - or even better!

After starting back at school in September, the Governing body has been busy making sure that we fully support the children and teaching staff of Highfield. This year there have been some new faces to the Governing Body, and we would like to welcome Mel Conaghan Community Governor (replacing Mags Teale) and Mrs Wragg taking up the role of Teacher Governor, replacing Miss Thackrah.

The Governors have asked a number of speakers to come to their meetings to keep them up to date and informed about the best ways they can add value and continue to support the school. The latest, in November, was a visit from Kirsty Quayle from Education Leeds to talk about SEN. As you know we are confident Highfield provides very well for pupils with SEN and Kirsty's visit confirmed this.

A list of Class Governors for this year is provided below or on the Governor Notice Board in school. Look out, either through these newsletters or via our Section of the Highfield website, for updates on these visits and some of the other things the Governors have been involved in.

Nancy Lester, Chair of Governors

## Class Governors

Highfield's Governors come from a wide range of backgrounds. Some, but not all, have children at the school. All classes are allocated a Class Governor. The role of Class Governor is to support the close links and communication between the governing body and the children and staff. This is a great way for the Governors to get to know the children and staff and to broaden their exposure to the wide range of activities across the school. It also enables the Governors to see the impact of their policies and decisions upon the running of the school. We hope that this makes the Governors more accessible and accountable.

Class Governors are expected to visit their classes at least once a year and are encouraged to be involved in other things, such as school assemblies, concerts and sports days. As we visit and engage with our classes, we hope to share our experiences and ideas in future newsletters.

A list of Class Governors for this academic year is provided below.

CLASS	TEACHER	GOVERNOR
RG	Mrs Garbutt	Claire Hills
RBH	Mrs Bowker Mrs Hargrave	
1S	Mrs Swales	Leighton Williams
1W	Mrs Wragg	Carol Patterson
2BM	Mrs Barratt Mrs McVeigh	Sheryl Richmond
2T	Miss Thackrah	Mark Rudd
3B	Mr Beresford	Steve Binns
3BC	Mrs Buckle Mrs Clarkson	Maureen Savery
4E	Miss Elson	Margaret Maiden
4H	Miss Harrower	Jacqui Green
5FH	Mrs Fritz Mrs Heeley	Mel Conaghan
5B	Mr Brassil	Nancy Lester
6HW	Mrs Homan Mrs Woodward	Antony Walberg
6P	Mr Potter	Elaine Taylor

## Highfield Open Morning - November 2013

Maureen Savery, Community Governor, 3BF Class Governor and member of Pupil Support Sub Committee, represented the Governors at the Highfield open morning in November for children due to start school September 2014 and was really impressed with what she experienced.



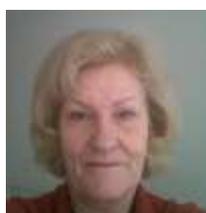
"What a privilege to attend this year's Open Morning at Highfield Primary. I haven't been able to experience it before - due to work commitments - but it was certainly worth the wait!

Mrs Colley's visual presentation outlined Highfield's shared ethos, high expectations, extensive and creative curriculum and after school enrichment activities. This can only be described as an integral reflection and a fascinating blend of ICT engineering. The positive feedback and overwhelming interest shown by intrigued and prospective parents was genuine and outstanding.

What an excellent turnout and well attended event. Watching numerous and exciting visitors calmly descend into the hall (both parents and children alike) and to be greeted by well mannered, polite and assertive ambassadors. Our Year 6 pupils performed their tasks with excellence and professionalism. As persuasive tour guides with relevant information and personal experience to share, our pupils' ability to use their skills purposefully seemed effortless. It almost appeared as if their pupil voices had been well rehearsed and staged. Not so. They were naturally able to transfer speaking and listening skills to answer challenging questions with confidence and reassure everyone of how irresistible learning was at Highfield Primary. Watch out 2014.... The best is yet to come!

Our Highfield pupils delivered memorably.....yet again. "

## Governor Engagement with the School Council



In addition to visiting the classes, the Governors have also been engaging with some of the other committees at Highfield.

Margaret Maiden - LEA Governor, Class Governor for 4E, Chair of the Teaching and Learning Sub Committee and Vice Chair of the full Governing Body - has also spent some time with the School Council, to understand what their priorities and plans are for this year and

how she and the rest of the Governors could support this.

"I recently took part in a School Council Meeting at Highfield. An interesting item on the agenda was the update from all the Class Representatives on which endangered animal their class was supporting as part of the fund raising for the WWF - the pupils' chosen charity this year.

The Council also discussed the playground improvements and gave some valuable and positive feedback on the scheme.

The meeting ended on a high because I was asked to choose the funniest joke from a number of worthy candidates-no easy task! I look forward to the next meeting and will be attending some Governor training in the New Year which focuses on how to further develop the pupil voice in school.

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For further information on the Highfield Governing Body or updates on some of things it is involved in visit the Governor Section of the Highfield Website