



Highfield Primary School

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School Governors Newsletter

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Welcome

Welcome back to the summer term at Highfield - I hope you have a lovely Easter break! From reading the April school newsletter, we have an exciting term ahead that is packed with so many interesting and stimulating learning experiences for the children. I find that the summer term also offers so many ways for parents, carers and families (and other members of the community - including the Governing body) to get involved and I would encourage you all to make the most of these opportunities. Don't forget the Roundhay Schools' Fun Run on 7th June and the Summer Fair organised by the Friends on Saturday 12th July and look out for details of the whole school aerobics on the school field, as part of Fit Week on 25th June to name but a few!

This term we welcome Harminder Dhanjal as a new parent governor and say farewell and a big thank you to Steve Binns and Jacqui Green who have recently left the committee. As well as being member of the full committee, Steve and Jacqui have actively contributed to the Resources sub committee and their energy - and their expertise - will be missed.

Last term we extended our involvement as governors to work with the Alwoodley Cluster of schools, with Margaret Maiden (Vice Chair) attending as link governor. Mrs Colley and Highfield staff have been actively involved for many years now and have experienced many benefits - not just through sharing ideas, expertise and best practice with local schools, but offering access to some really great initiatives and activities such as Mad Science Week, Holiday Sports Clubs, Music Maker, Garage Band Club and Mini Policing.

Finally, do keep checking the Governor section of Highfield website - we are trying hard this year to use this more as a forum for sharing with the school some of the ways in which we are getting involved across the school

Nancy Lester, Chair of Governors

Class Governor Report – Claire Hills reports on her involvement in the Reception classes where she is their Class Governor.



I've always thought that there's a little bit of magic (and a lot of patience!) involved in foundation stage teaching at Highfield so I was delighted to be asked to be their class governor this year.

There is a lot to learn in the first year of school and Highfield is very lucky to have reception staff with fantastic enthusiasm, knowledge, experience and dedication. This year I have been volunteering with the team on a Monday and Friday getting to see the magic in action. Learning in reception is fun and I have thoroughly enjoyed myself! Every day is full of variety whether it is role playing, dressing up, baking, problem solving, drawing, painting, ICT, singing, counting, building, reading, writing, learning about money, sharing stories or playing games. One aspect of the day the children really enjoy is "carpet time" when they are actively encouraged to talk about what they are doing outside school, show a model they have made, a book they are reading or share a story about their weekend. The progress of the reception children since September has been amazing they can already add and subtract, identify 3D shapes, read, write and even tidy up when they have finished playing (yes really!).

One of the most enjoyable aspects to being a class governor is seeing the class plays and assemblies. Throughout the year I have had the pleasure of watching all 3 reception productions. The Christmas play is always a special event, this year "The Stable Cat" was no exception and there was hardly a dry eye in the house! Both RBH and RG have this year performed their very first Highfield class assemblies. Speaking to an audience of at least 200 people can be daunting for anyone and it is amazing to think that many of the children were still only 4 years old.

This year's foundation stage is full of fantastic young people and I have been privileged to be a tiny part of their journey through their first year at Highfield. I have no doubts that amongst them are future artists, teachers, scientists, engineers, mathematicians and one or two politicians!

Well done reception 2013/14 you are all superstars!!

Engagement with the School Council – developing the 'Pupil Voice'

In the January newsletter Margaret Maiden reported on her positive experiences and interactions with the School Council in her role as link governor. Since then she has attended training on developing the 'Pupil Voice' and Student led School Policies.

Reporting back Margaret noted

"It was interesting to hear that our School Council at Highfield was already discussing many of the issues that help pupils develop their voice. Examples include behaviour in school, lunch times and healthy eating. By involving pupils and listening to their comments and views on policies in school, pupils are encouraged to develop ownership of school policies and contribute to school improvement."

Margaret plans to attend another School Council this terms so looks forward to reporting back in the next newsletter.

Welcome to our new parent governor!



We are delighted to welcome Harmi Dhanjal to the Governing Body at Highfield. Harmi is a parent representative, with his son (Indie) in year 1 and his daughter (Jamseet) due to start in Reception in September.

Harmi is a secondary school teacher and currently teaches at Guiseley School as the Director of Teaching, Learning and Strategy, ICT so brings many excellent skills and experiences to Highfield. He has also been involved in work with Ofsted, shadowing two full school inspections, so will be able to offer some helpful insights when the time comes!

Reflecting on his role as parent governor, Harmi states

"I would like to contribute these skills to the continued development of Highfield School into its next stages as a parent governor...I am passionate about teaching and learning and believe it is important to see school from different perspectives in order to understand fully the challenges and opportunities that exist."

Harmi will also be joining the Teaching and Learning sub-committee - chaired by Margaret Maiden.

Outside of work he spends much time at the Gurdwara, Sikh place of worship, to volunteer his time to serve the local community. He also enjoys running, cycling to keep fit with his family - so we look forward to seeing him representing Highfield at Roundhay Fun Run on 7 June - along with many of the other Highfield Governors of course!! I will be there!

Schools Improvement Priorities

Substantial progress is being made across school in delivering on this year's school improvement priorities - many thanks to all the staff who are leading on this. These are key in terms of ensuring that the school continually improves and responds to specific areas of need, opportunities or new developments and the governors work with Leadership team to regularly monitor achievements and review impact

As a reminder our School Improvement Priorities this (13/14) school year are

- To accelerate the achievement of children who are eligible for pupil premium
- To achieve more outstanding teaching and learning in PE
- To achieve more outstanding teaching in science by ensuring opportunities are made for excellent investigative science work both within science itself and cross curricular where appropriate
- To prepare for new government led changes from 2014 such as the new national curriculum, changes to SEN provision and possible new assessment changes
- To improve the school infrastructure over a period of five years (kitchens, electrics, decoration, outdoor areas)

Pupil Support Sub-Committee - report from Chair, Claire Hills

The pupil support sub-committee is responsible for many of the aspects of school life relating to welfare and safeguarding. These responsibilities include equal opportunities and inclusion, child protection, attendance, special educational needs, food and behaviour. Several of the governors on the committee have specific roles relating to safeguarding within school

- Mark Rudd - Child Protection/Looked After Children
- Elaine Taylor - Disability and Race Equality
- Claire Hills - Special Educational Needs

Since the beginning of the academic year the pupil support committee has been busy reviewing and updating the child protection policy, the disability equality scheme and producing the "Highfield Offer" for parents of children with special educational needs. All of which can be found on the website.

In addition the committee has been examining the impact of the attendance policy introduced in September 2013 and the policy of free school meals for KS1 children due to be introduced in September 2014. The focus for 2014/2015 will include the new special educational needs guidelines brought about by the Children and Families Act 2014.

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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