

Chair of Governors Newsletter – Term 5 2017-2018

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome to the latest governor newsletter. As we always aim to improve our communication with parents and carers, we would like to share with you what we have done for the school in Term 5.

WEEKLY MEETING

Generally, I meet with Mr Hawkins once a week to discuss all aspects of the school and share information on any progress or issues as well as make plans going forward.

DATA

I recently read a quote that said : “First they said, they needed DATA about the children to find out what they are learning. Then, they said they needed DATA about the children to make sure they are learning. Then, the children only learnt what could be turned into DATA. Then the children became DATA”.

Here at HCPS, we take our responsibility to our pupils very seriously. This term (also in Term 1 and Term 3) we have examined DATA to ensure that every pupil in the school is being appropriately challenged to make progress that we believe they are capable of. We looked for evidence that all children are making progress. Whilst looking at DATA is an important part of the Governors’ role, we also recognize that behind every number there is a child and a story. Examining the DATA is only one tool that guide us in making sure standards continue to be raised and that every child reaches their full potential.

MONITORING VISIT

Our last monitoring visit for this academic year, took place in Term 5. The reports of governors visits strongly highlighted where HCPS is as a school, whereas we are always seeking to continue growing and to reflect where and how we can improve.

FINANCES

One of the biggest challenges facing schools at the moment is budget allocation and we are no exception. Every member of staff has worked tirelessly in ensuring that every penny spent benefits our school with pupils being at the heart of any decision. Discussing how to access grants to fund enrichment activities in school has also been a high priority on the agenda. I would like to express my gratitude to Mrs Saheed for working relentlessly, behind the scene, in trying to gain access to various grants.

POLICIES

The “policy team” meets up once a term to ensure that policies are up to date and reflect current working practices and legislation, before being ratified at the Full Governing Body.

FOREST SCHOOL

The process of implementing a Forest School within our grounds, has been very inspiring thanks to Mrs Stevens, who is working towards her level 3 Forest School qualification and has been the lead to this exciting project. I would also like to thank the few volunteers : Miss Pullen, Mr & Mrs Collier, Dave Collier and my eldest son Adrian (volunteering towards his Duke of Edinburgh), for their help in making the whole Forest School much more accessible and most importantly, safe.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Meeting up with the school council once a term, always strengthens why we have chosen to be part of the Governing Team. The children always appear to be so enthusiastic and are constantly eager to find ways to make their school a better place. It is a privilege, to say the least, to meet up with the school council.

GOVERNORS COFFEE MORNING

A few more parents turned up at our last coffee morning. It is without a doubt, the perfect opportunity for us to hear first-hand the positive and the “not as positive” comments you might have about our village school. We will of course let you know when the next coffee morning will be in Term 6

SWIMMING GALA

A big well-done to all the children and staff involved in the swimming gala. What a great evening, your behavior was once again exemplary!

Term 6, will be as ever, a very busy time for the teachers, who I cannot thank enough for all their continued commitment in providing our children with the best learning opportunities.

It will also be a busy time for PAFA, who could do with any support ahead of the carnival on 14th July 2018. Great day for the whole family.

Patricia M Dunmall

(Chair of Governors)