

# Governors' Newsletter

Thorpe Hesley Primary School



Mrs Trudi Toms  
Headteacher



Mrs Kerry Hattersley  
Chair of Governors

Summer Term 2016

Welcome to our Summer Term Newsletter – we hope that you find these newsletters informative. We would love to hear any feedback, or if there is anything that you would like to see included, please let us know via the contacts on the last page.

It has been another busy term in school, and we have had to contend with the absence of lots of our teaching staff due to various illnesses and ailments. We are pleased that everyone is better now and our students have, while missing their teachers, continued to enjoy their learning – testament to the leadership team for their contingency planning, and to the staff who have covered!!

As governors, we are aware that some parents supported a strike where they kept their child at home for a day, in protest against SATs. We can reassure parents that the way SATs and other testing is delivered in school is monitored very closely, and our leadership team ensure that testing is discreet, focused and aimed at getting the best out of children. Unfortunately, we have no control over Government legislation but we can assure you that the best place for your children is in school, being supported by caring teachers who, like you, want the best out of your child's education.

**Fab  
Teacher**

**We know we are very lucky at Thorpe Hesley Primary School to have fabulous teachers across the board, but we felt that a special mention should go, deservedly, to Mr Hanson and Mr Parkin.**

**Did you know that both teachers give up large amounts of their free time to allow our children to compete in activities after school and at weekends? Just this academic year our students have won awards in Football, Athletics, Cross Country and Rounders. Most recently Thorpe Hesley won 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Tennis Championships at Winterhill School and finished 4<sup>th</sup> overall in Rotherham!**

**Both teachers participate in a football league after school and are involved in football competitions at the weekend. The school team has won a range of tournaments, including representing Rotherham United and South Yorkshire at national events. The teachers have also coached our athletics team to become Rotherham champions and competed at the South Yorkshire games.**

**This all helps to make our children the well rounded, happy individuals that they are. We thank all the teachers for going 'over and above' to ensure that the children are happy, engaged and enjoying their education.**



This term saw the retirement of a long-standing and much treasured member of staff. Mrs Green retired in April after 36 years teaching! Her leaving assembly was amazing - all the staff made it special with comfy chairs and her favourite tea, each year group shared special memories which were presented in a presentation folder, and all classes rehearsed a song and presented to more than a few tears!! Each class had sewn a pattern which was added onto cushion covers for her to remember us by. Then afterwards, in the playground, all children performed a dance to "I love to boogie!"

It was testament to how much Mrs Green is loved that it took her over two hours to open all the cards and presents! In return, Mrs Green made the really thoughtful gesture of gifting the school with 1,000 daffodil bulbs, one for every child she has taught in the Thorpe Hesley Schools. She was a valued member of our community - attracting praise from Rotherham schools and beyond for her ideas in Foundation education. We will miss her but wish her the best of retirements!

# Governor Awards

Our fabulous winners of the Spring Term Governor Awards are as follows:

## Governor Citizen Award WINNERS

**FS :** Lola Knight and Archie Atherton

**Year 1:** Ben Higgins and Poppy Turner

**Year 2:** Finley Grattan and Hope Henshaw

**Year 3:** Rudy Vernon and Imogen Travis

**Year 4:** Erin Mangham and Tom Ashforth

**Year 5:** Emily Harrison and Thomas Marson

**Year 6:** Finlay Barker and Elizabeth Hudson



## Governor Academic Award WINNERS

**KS1:** Matilda Windle and Harry Goulty

**KS2:** Ellie Swinn and Lucas Perry

## Highly Commended:

**FS:** Daisy Thorpe, Darcey Hird, Liam Thorpe, Finley Hayes, Leon Scallan, Madisyn Johnston-Stankiewicz, Jacob Tordoff, Eve Taylor, and Brooke Butterfield.

**Y1:** Ryan Gennard, Poppy Thorpe, and Teagan O'Donnell.

**Y2:** Freya Davies, and Harrison Swift.

**Y3:** Jacob Slater.

**Y4:** Mollie Clarke.

**Y5:** Finley Roberts, Emily Housley, and Kayley Casterton.

**Y6:** Olivia Barker, Thomas Hives, Jason Hill, and Maisy Johnson

### Visits this term...

We continue with our requirements to undertake visits and this term the following visits have taken place: Joanne Hawkrige visited the Foundation Stage, Emma Crarer visited Mr Scotton to look at Mathematics, and Kerry Hattersley held a safeguarding visit with Mrs Toms. As usual, all reports are available through governing body minutes – governors have been very impressed by teaching staff and the breadth of the curriculum on offer.

### More about us...

In the last newsletter we introduced Tracy Barker, our experienced SEND governor. Tracy has now left the Governing Body to spend time with her family. As a result we have assessed the roles of the governing body to ensure we have this key area covered. Our new responsibilities are outlined on the next page, but Sarah Scott has taken over as SEND governor and is introduced here.

**We thank Tracy for all her hard work in this area and hope she enjoys the next chapter of her life!**

### Sarah Scott

My name is Sarah Scott and I have been a parent governor for the last 2 years. I have lived in Thorpe Hesley all my life and have fond memories of being a pupil at both the Infants and Juniors, just as Mrs Green was in the early stage of her career! I now work as a solicitor specialising in Family Law and was keen to be able to use some of my skills and experience through my work to support yet challenge the school to help to make sure it remains the best school in Rotherham. Recently I have taken on the role of Governor responsible for Special Educational Needs and Disability as well as Pupil Premium and Looked After Children. These roles involve meeting with the SENCO co-ordinators in school on a regular basis to assess whether school's systems, policies and budgets for SEND provision are successfully meeting the needs of our pupils with additional needs.

### Alison Briddock

In June 2011 I became a parent governor at Thorpe Hesley Infant School. My knowledge of what a governor did and how they were involved in school was limited. But through the help and advice from the staff and other governors, I soon felt part of the team and ready for a challenge. My role as parent governor was the KS1 Literacy governor and to also attend the children centre meetings. I made various visits to school as part of this role, but I also volunteered in school in the foundation unit and in class 3.

In November 2013 I also became a parent governor at Thorpe Hesley Junior School – I really enjoyed being a governor for both the Infant and Junior Schools. During May 2014 I became the Vice Chair of Governors for the Infant building and also worked part time in the school office doing secretarial duties. As I was a governor for both the Infant and Junior Schools, I assisted others successfully joining both schools together to become Thorpe Hesley Primary School and appointing Mrs Toms as our fantastic Head Teacher.

During this time, I worked as a nurse at the Royal Hallamshire Hospital, but completed level 2 & 3 teaching assistant courses at Rotherham College of Art and Technology, while being a mom to William (aged 12 – attended both Infant and Junior Schools, now at Winterhill School) and Thomas (aged 8 in year 3 at THPS).

In September 2014, I successfully became a teaching assistant at THPS, I work each morning in class 4 and in the afternoon I undertake SEN (Special Educational Needs) interventions.

I love being part of THPS as a staff member and governor, seeing children learning and growing as part of the best school in Rotherham and indeed the world!

# Who we are

Our Governors give up their time each term to make your school a better place. Please find details of our current Governing Body, our responsibilities, and our link to school.

Name	Role (Area of responsibility)	Link to school
Trudi Toms	Staff Governor	Head teacher!
Kerry Hattersley	Chair Safeguarding and Equality	Isabelle in Year 4
Andrew Sowerby	Vice Chair ICT, Pupil Progress and Data	Children have been through school
Alison Briddock	Training and Development	Thomas in Year 3
Clare Chappell	Parent Governor	Thomas in Year 6
Jackie Davis	Anti-bullying Pay committee appeal	Long standing school governor
Emma Crarer	Premises, Health and Safety Committee Chair Mathematics	Alena in Year 4
Joanne Hawkridge	Foundation Stage	Lily in Y2, Jude F1
Pat Jones	Curriculum and Standards Committee Chair Literacy and PE	Grandchildren have been through school
Eileen Leeson	Science	Children have been through school
Donna Oakley	Staff Governor	Ayla in Year 1
Judy Reid	Staffing and Finance Committee Chair	Child has been through school
Louise Reasbeck	Associate Member	Children have been through school
Sarah Scott	Special Educational Needs Inclusion and Pupil Premium	Ben in Year 2, Millie in F2
Louise Smelt	Science	Children have been through school
Helen Whitworth	Associate Member Special Educational Needs	Children have been through school
Denise Woodcock	Staff Governor	Children have been through school
Phil Wood	Clerk to the Governing Body	We are just lucky! Phil is an experienced clerk of a few Rotherham schools.

If there is something specific that you would like to see in our newsletter, please let us know.

**Contact us:**  
Kerry Hattersley  
c/o Thorpe Hesley Primary School

Or please contact the  
relevant Governor if  
you have a specific query