

Governors' Newsletter

Thorpe Hesley Primary School



Mrs Trudi Toms
Headteacher



Mrs Kerry Hattersley
Chair of Governors

Autumn Term 2016-17

Welcome to the Autumn term newsletter. As ever, it has been a busy time in school with children visiting the church for Harvest Festival, Y6 children going to Filey for their residential, Space Dome visiting Y5, parent stay and play in Foundation units, and lots more.

This half term is even busier in the run up to Christmas with plays, carol singing, Christmas jumper day, the pantomime and Christmas lunch.

The governors have been undertaking lots of training recently. We are expecting a visit from Ofsted in the near future, so some governors have attended training specifically about this, plus Sarah Scott is busy upskilling in her roles as pupil premium and vulnerable children governor.

The government is putting more focus on the role of governing bodies, and now an Ofsted inspection will highlight bodies which it finds to be ineffective. We are very lucky to have a proactive team of people who genuinely want to support the school. We hope you find these newsletters informative, but please do let any one of us know if there is something specific you would like to see covered in here.

Our governing body is now down to 13 members, including associates, and consisting of staff, parent, community and Local Authority governors. Often governing bodies need to recruit throughout the year, but the legacy of our body was that governors stayed on from both the infant and the junior schools, so we had a very large team of over 20. This term we have said goodbye to Jackie Davies, who has been a governor at this school and before that the junior school, for over 20 years, to Helen Whitworth, and to Claire Chappell, both of whom were with us for a number of years. We will miss them all and wish them well.

New Vice-Chair!

At our last meeting, the role of Vice-Chair was up for election. Andrew Sowerby, who has many years' experience both as Chair and Vice-Chair, stays on, but is joined by Emma Crarer, who was an infant school Governor before the merge.

They will share the role which brings additional experience and resource.

Andrew's children have already been through school, Emma has Alena in Y5.

Visits this term...

Lots of visits have happened this term. Kerry Hattersley has met with Mrs Toms to look at Equality and Safeguarding in school. Lots of work is going on behind the scenes, in particular in relation to making the curriculum as fun and engaging as it can be for all children. Sarah Scott continued her visits to look at pupil premium and vulnerable children, supporting this with custom training, She has also met with staff regarding SEND. Remember, the visit reports are available via governing body minutes should you wish to find out more.

More about us...

This term there have been some changes to our sub-committees. Pat Jones is now Chair of the Staffing and Finance Committee. Emma Crarer stays on as Premises, Health and Safety Chair, and Alison Briddock is the Curriculum and Standards Chair. In addition, the Vice-Chair of Governors is now a shared role, as covered over the page.

On this page, you can meet another of our governors.

Survey time...

Thank you to those of you who have gone online and given your views. As governors we are very interested in the results and how the school is viewed. Please log on through parentview <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/> to give your views on our school, and remember, if you have any issues that you do not feel have been dealt with, as governors we are always here to help!



Louise Smelt

I first became a governor several years ago when my three girls were pupils at the school.

At that time I helped in school on a voluntary basis as I wanted to be involved in the education of my children.

I had previously worked within both education and social care, and as I wished to spend as much time as possible with my own young family, I trained and worked as a child minder. I was able to begin working in school as a lunchtime play leader while still child minding.

Since those days, my role in school has changed from lunchtime supervisor, to part time teaching assistant and more recently to full time HLTA.

My role in the governing body has changed too. Initially I was a Parent Governor, but that changed when I became a full time member of staff. I am now an Associate Governor. This means that I do not have the power to vote at the termly full Governor meetings, only at the Committee meetings that I am a member of. As I still had children in school at that point, I wanted to continue as a member of the Governing Body to better understand the needs of the school and to support wherever I am able.

Although all my girls have left our school, I remain a member of the Governing Body. I feel that the better understanding I have of the current needs, aims and objectives of our school, the better I shall be at my job.

One of the ways in which I supported other staff and Governors during recent months was to help in the work and preparation for our school's Primary Quality Science Mark where we gained a silver award. This gave me a real sense of achievement and an opportunity to work with several members of our team.

My job in school, working with your children in Key Stage 2, provides me with a genuine feeling of pride and enjoyment. I look forward to any future challenges with enthusiasm.

Change to Governors' Awards

At a meeting last term, we discussed the Governor Awards and the process. Previously, staff in school have nominated children, then a panel from the governing body has assessed the nominations in line with our policy, (which as governors is one of our favourite roles)! On reflection, we felt that this approach could lead to bias where some nominations have more evidence than others. We reflected that being nominated at all was a fantastic achievement, and that these children should be rewarded consistently. We therefore agreed to amend the process to all nominated children being winners! Congratulations to all our winners below!!



Governor Awards

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

FS – Ruby Mitchell, Erin Brooke, Jack Godhard, Ashleigh Nowill,

Samuel Upstone, Liam Thorpe, Leon Scallan, Oscar Palac, Harry Gunstone

Year 1 - Joseph Thomas, Alfie Park, Ella Housley, Harrison Keeble, Oliver Love, Jacob Howe, Oliver Dickinson, Max Beck

Year 2 - Halle Giagnacovo, Charlie-Lexi Baldwin, Olivia Bailey, Isaac Cullumbine, Alexander Wiseman, James Stephens, Lily Shenton, Jacob Pearson, Lucy Redmond, Reece Brasher,

Alfie Woodcock, Scout Herbert, Oscar Calvert

Year 3 – Alex Brown, Isla Hirst, Lily Howe

Year 4 – Scott Nichols, Jack Dimler, Rowan Jubb

Year 5 - Grace Burgin, Vivienne Marshall, Daisy Guttridge, Violet Littlewood, Evie Turton, Charlotte Holmes

Year 6 - Rhiannon Salvin, Olivia Cullumbine, Skye Brasher, Summer Greaves, Thomas Chappell, Oliver Cole, Elliott Marshall, Michael Merner, Scarlett Marshall, Sam Gill, James Dunwell, Emma Slater, Izzy McKenna, Logan Cheeseman, Emily Mumford, Jack Colgrave, Gabriel Hartley, Anna Chadburn, Sophia Knowles.



Autumn
2016 term
winners will
be in the
next
newsletter.

You said...we listened

Lots of parents have told us, either anecdotally or through Parent Surveys, that you would like after-school provision. The Senior Leadership Team has been looking at how this can work, and you will see that from October this provision is available. Governors are very grateful to the teachers and staff who have made this happen for the local community.

Who we are

Our Governors give up their time each term to provide support, guidance and offer expertise to the school. All of our governors are passionate about Thorpe Hesley Primary School and want to help the school succeed. Please find details of us, our responsibilities, and our link to school, below.

Name	Role (Area of responsibility)	Link to school
Trudi Toms	Staff Governor	Head teacher!
Kerry Hattersley	Chair Safeguarding, Equality and Website	Isabelle in Year 5
Andrew Sowerby	Vice Chair ICT, Pupil Progress and Data	Children have been through school
Alison Briddock	Staffing and Curriculum Chair Training and Development	Thomas in Year 4
Emma Crarer	Premises, Health and Safety Committee Chair Mathematics	Alena in Year 5
Joanne Hawkridge	Foundation Stage	Lily in Y3, Jude F2
Pat Jones	Staffing and Finance 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 2
Judy Reid	Co-opted Governor	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 3, Millie in Y1
Louise Smelt	Science	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.



Flash Survey

We value your feedback and thought now would be a good time to gauge your thoughts on the newsletter. Please complete and detach this slip and hand in to the school office or your class teacher.

Do you read the governor newsletter?

Yes

No

Do you find the newsletter informative?

Yes

No

Is there something else you would like to see covered in the newsletter? (If yes please outline below):

Contact us:

Kerry Hattersley
c/o Thorpe Hesley Primary School

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