

Governors' Newsletter

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Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to say a **huge thank you** to the staff and children for all of your hard work this year, to the parents and the PTA for your generosity and support for our school. Without the effort and energy that you all bring every day this school would not be the place it is today.

We are also saying farewell and thank you to a number of our staff and governors, we are very grateful for everything you have done to support the school during your time with us.

This term the governors have been working on some of the key actions from the strategy session we had at the end of last term, the main area being reconstituting the Governing Body.

Setting the school budgets and priorities for the next academic year have been a big focus for the school leadership and management this term.

I wish you all a very well earned restful, relaxing and hopefully sunny summer holiday.

Simone Tyson (Chair of Governors)

Latest Hertfordshire Improvement Partner Report

The Progress Review visit of our Hertfordshire Improvement Partner (HIP), Pippa Bremner, took place on 25th June.

Pippa concluded that across all three areas of focus within the current year school development plan the school had made good progress agreeing the schools self-assessment and commented that:

“Work scrutiny indicates increasing evidence of outstanding practice in both maths and English. The school is currently working to embed a whole school fluency focus in maths, including problem solving and reasoning. This will continue to be a priority in 2015/16.”

From September 2015 we will have a new HIP, Deborah Godbold.



School Website

The school website has a wealth of useful information including how to make suggestions and the process about how to raise any concerns you may have. Your class teacher is always the first point of contact.

The website is always being updated with additional information so do check it out from time to time.

Parent Voice

We are introducing an annual parent voice survey in the autumn term to be completed for each pupil at the school. We will use the standard Ofsted questions and also ask about how effective you feel the governing body is.

If there are any other questions you would like us to include in the survey do let us know. Please do keep an eye out and let us know your views.

Governing Body Reconstitution

All maintained schools were required by the Government to reconstitute their governing bodies before 1 September 2015.

The main driver behind reconstitution is to get away from a title based choice of governors e.g. Teacher, Parent, Local Education Authority, Community towards a more skills based approach i.e. Education, Legal, Financial, Special Educational Needs, Procurement, Human Resources etc.

As a governing body we followed the Department for Education guidance, talked to other schools and have reconstituted as shown below. We still need to keep an appropriate balance of backgrounds and the number of school parents involved is unchanged at present. Co-opted and "Associate" governor roles will allow us to bring the skills we need into the governing body when needed.

New		Old	
Head Teacher	1	Head Teacher	1
Elected Parent	2	Elected Parent	4
Elected Staff	1	Elected Staff	2
LEA	1	LEA	2
Co-opted	7	Community	3
Total	12	Total	12

Behaviour for Learning

You will have seen that the school has introduced a new behavior for learning policy. All stakeholders were consulted about the behaviour for learning characteristics that were developed to promote vital life skills for the pupils. Hannah East the Hertfordshire Adviser expressed how impressed she was with the policy and wanted to send it to other schools as an example. The characteristics are as follows:

Listener
Enthusiastic
Ambitious
Resilient
Nurturing
Engaged
Respectful



Open Position

We currently have **open positions** on the governing body for Co-opted governors. Co-opted governors can come from any background (community, parent, staff etc). The skills we are currently looking for are as follows:

- Risk assessment
- Premises management / Health & Safety
- Special Educational Needs
- HR, IT, consultation/research

Our needs will change over time, so if you are interested in finding out more about becoming a school governor but do not fit these specific skills please still let us know via the school office.

Associate Governors

So what is an associate governor?

At present in addition to our 12 governors we have associate governors that do not vote on governing body matters but provide support in specific projects, or specialist skill areas.

A Few Reminders

Funding for schools and Pupil Premium

Funding for schools is something which will be under more pressure in future than it has been in the past. There are many ways that parents can help us with this. PTA fundraising is something which the school is hugely grateful for, the money raised goes directly to benefit your children and the support we have had in the past has been amazing. We hope that the PTA support can continue into the future.

Another funding stream that parents may not be aware of is **pupil premium funding**. Some families may be eligible for pupil premium funding and this brings additional funding to the school which directly supports the children who are eligible.

We urge any families who think they may be eligible for this premium payment to contact the school and to apply for this funding as it directly benefits your child through for example: funded trips/residential visits, clubs, and uniform.

www.chorleywood.herts.sch.uk/parents/pupil_premium.html

Parking in Ryman Court

Being active within our community is something that is very important to the school and ensuring that we are able to have good relationships within our neighbourhood is part of that.

Can we therefore remind parents that anyone driving and visiting the school should not be parking in Ryman Court, as this puts a strain on the relationship we have with our neighbours.

Safety and parking in the school car park

The school car park is in place for staff and visitors to the school and we wanted to flag that parents and carers should not be using the school car park.

The school does have an arrangement with The Stag public house for pick up and drop off times.



Photo: David Kilvert

Key School Priorities 2015/16

Having made good progress on the priorities for 2014 / 15, we start to look to 2015/16.

The priority areas identified by the senior leadership team, governors and agreed by our Hertfordshire Improvement Partner for the 2015/16 academic year are as follows:

Further developing **fluency, reasoning and problem solving in maths** across the school

Review **provision for pupils with multiple vulnerabilities**.

Further develop **governance to ensure it is outstanding**

Embed Behaviour for Learning to ensure this is outstanding

We will also be looking to support the development of reading at speed in KS2.