



Oxfordshire County Council

HAILEY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Hailey, Witney, Oxon, OX29 9UB

Hailey School Governing Body Newsletter

December 2017

Introduction

Welcome to this term's Hailey School Governors' newsletter. For staff and parents new to the school, this newsletter aims to give you a better idea of the role of the governing body and how it is working with Mrs Davies and staff members to add value to the school.

In this edition, we will be covering the following:

- Hailey School's excellent SATS Results
- School Plan Priorities: how we did 2016/17 and what we're doing 2017/18
- Pupil Survey Results
- Pupil Voice
- Extra-curricular Activities
- Governing Body Membership

Hailey School is Top of the Table!

The SATS results for all schools have just been released and we are extremely proud to say that Hailey Primary School performed top out of all the Witney primary schools and other neighbouring village schools for overall performance and progress at keystage 2. Our progress was well above average for reading and maths and above average for writing. The staff all worked very hard with the children, and we would like to thank them for all their efforts and congratulate the staff and children again on these results.

For those new to education terms, attainment is the standard that children achieve compared to a national benchmark for children of a similar age, and progress is the amount by which children improve their learning over time compared to children of a similar age.

All the children at the end of Key stage 1 (year 2) and Key stage 2 (year 6) did well, outperforming national averages in reading, writing and maths for expected levels of attainment, in some cases, by a large margin. In addition, the school performed well at the higher level of attainment, (now called 'working at greater depth') across all subjects for Key stage 2, and for Key stage 1 the school was in line with the national average in writing, slightly below in maths and below in reading but still showed very good progress from year 1.

The Foundation Stage Unit also outperformed the national average again this year on the percentage of children who achieved a good level of development across all the core areas as did the school's phonics scores.

The full set of results for SATS keystage 2 results are available on the government website; you simply select the school and postcode area to search.

<https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk>

The other results are available on our website. Do take a look.

<http://www.hailey.oxon.sch.uk/parent-information/how-we-are-doing/>

School Plan Priorities

We want to update you on our progress against the priorities in our Raising Achievement Plan: the equivalent to a business plan for schools, and outline our focus areas for this year.

Priority 1: Leadership

The school has a three year plan, which sets out how we move towards our vision of being the best starting block for children in our care. A key objective for last year was to explore collaboration options with other schools, in order to share best practice, drive school improvement and optimise our resources. The governing body explored in great detail a number of potential options but came to the conclusion that none of them were suitable for Hailey School at that time. This remains an important consideration for the school, given the ever increasing pressure on school budgets and our aims for school improvement, particularly as the education landscape continues to shift and new opportunities arise.

The other leadership objective was to review costs and look for opportunities to increase income. The school undertook a number of cost-saving measures without compromising the quality of provision in the school and also generated additional income from hiring out the school premises and extending provision to daily before-and after-school clubs. Given the huge squeeze on school budgets, this objective remains a priority and the governing body is exploring additional income-generating options such as grants and opportunities for the school to expand to one-form-entry.

Priority 2: Quality of Teaching and Pupil Outcomes

All our targets for attainment and progress compared to national data were met or exceeded with the one exception of Key Stage 1 working in greater depth scores, which were in the range or only slightly below, as noted above. Targeted support for children and extra teaching initiatives in maths and literacy helped the school perform so well. New targets have been set this year for progress and attainment for all year groups, across all subjects, so we can move towards our vision of outstanding for the school. This includes an objective for higher attainment scores for each year group.

The quality of teaching and pupil engagement in classwork has been closely monitored over the past year, by the Head Teacher and independent advisors, and was judged to be good across the school, and for 60% of criteria outstanding. Survey responses show that our creative curriculum is engaging pupils, and the support of parents with homework, reading and topic work has been vital.

Investment in the training and professional development of our staff will continue and collaboration with other schools in and beyond the Witney Schools Partnership will help us achieve an even higher proportion of outstanding teaching.

Priority 3: Behaviour and Safety

Results from staff, parent and pupil surveys show that Hailey School continues to provide outstanding levels of behaviour, attendance and safety, and that our school values of love and tolerance are supported strongly by the school community. Our attendance record (putting us in the top 10% of schools) continues to provide benefits for children's wellbeing and development, as well as their learning. A particular focus last year was building a sense of independence, resilience and confidence amongst our pupils to help them prepare for the next stage of their education and later life. A new programme called 'Growth Mindset' was

introduced to develop this and survey responses show that this is having an impact. Objectives for next year will build on these Growth Mindset initiatives with a particular focus on healthy relationships.

Priority 4: Spiritual, Social, Moral, Physical & Cultural Development

The school aims to balance academic progress with the development of healthy, confident and caring children through a diverse offering of sports, cultural and spiritual activities, in close coordination with the church. Last year a number of new initiatives were introduced which have had very positive feedback from the children, including Forest Schools and outdoor assemblies as well as encouraging the children to take an active part in planning and/or leading school assemblies.

The school continues to invest in programmes such as Anti-bullying week, Science Week and One-World week as well as the diverse topic activities and school visits that each class enjoys each term. In addition, the school will continue to invest in inter-school sports competitions helped by the extra sports coaching the school is providing three days a week to develop confidence & skills. Continued emphasis will be placed on developing opportunities for children to plan and lead some of these activities, and the new Pupil Voice programme will facilitate this. (See section of this below.)

Pupil Survey

Last summer, we conducted our annual pupil survey, to get feedback from the children on different aspects of school life. We received some very positive answers with the vast majority of responses in the high eighties and nineties which is a credit to the staff and leadership of the school.

Some of the highlights were as follows:

- 100% of Lower Juniors, Reception & Infants & 91% of Upper Juniors say their lessons are interesting
- 100% of Lower Juniors, Reception & Infants & 94% of Upper Juniors say that even when their work is difficult, they don't give up and they try their best
- 100% of Reception & Infants, 92% of Lower Juniors & 80% of Upper Juniors say in class they can learn well because other children behave nicely
- 100% of Reception and Infants, 96% of Lower Juniors & 94% of Upper Juniors say the school encourages me to be active and healthy
- 100% of all children say they are encouraged to take part in different aspects of school life (e.g. sport, music, drama, school council) & 100% of Lower Juniors, Reception & Infants & 97% of Upper Juniors say they enjoy Forest School

Pupil Voice

The aim of Pupil Voice is to build confidence in the children and encourage them to work together in teams as well as providing an opportunity for their input into the way the school runs so they feel ownership. Cross-year-group teams have been set up involving all children to look at different aspects of school life that are important to them and that are relevant to our school priorities. This gives a chance for pupils from different classes to work together, something they really enjoy.

The time is dedicated to discussion about the topics to enable the children to have their views aired and to make decisions about things they'd like to see change. Some areas include:

Behaviour, School lunches, Growth mindset, Outdoor environment and School information.

The children meet twice a term. At the first meeting every child was able to give their opinions. The teams then made decisions as a group about what they wanted to do and came back together to feed back to other teams about their plans. Subsequent meetings will implement the plans and generate more ideas.

Extra-curricular Activities

Despite budget cuts, thanks to the sterling work of the Friends and the hard work and support of staff and parents the children have been able to enjoy a fantastic array of activities this term. A greater number of parents have also been providing contributions towards these extra school events and activities which are so crucial to help these run.

We thought we should highlight some of the events that the children have enjoyed to give you a flavour of their experience at Hailey Primary School this term:

Trips: Oxford Pantomime, Christmas Tree walk, Lower Juniors trip to Bristol Aquarium.

Visits: Planetarium visit, NSPCC visit in anti-bullying week, Fire service visit as part of the Infant class project.

Inter-school events: Year 1 dance performance, Regional cross country competition (KS2), Year 3/4 football tournament

Extra activities: St John's Ambulance first aid course online webinar, Harvest Festival, Sports coaching three days a week in PE lessons, lunchtimes & break to help build skills and prepare children for competitions, Christmas shows, Christmas lunch, Christmas parties, Christmas fayre

Still to come: Carol service, Singing at Middletown Grange, Cinema morning on last day of term.

The governing body would like to say a massive thank you to the Friends who have worked so hard to generate extra funds for the school and who have put on such a great number of events for the children and parents to enjoy. Without their help, many of the above activities could not take place. We encourage you to continue to support them and get involved.

Governing Body Membership

Our new governors are settling in well and we are already benefiting from their experience. We currently have one parent governor vacancy and one foundation governor vacancy. Any interested parents or carers will be able to apply for the parent governor position at the start of next term. If you are aware of any friends or family in the local community who may be interested in a governor position, do please ask them to get in touch.

Co-opted

Sam Amy
Jane Carr
Tony Hubbard
Sorcha Dyer
Eve Smith
Graham Simpson

County

Torica Back

Clerk

Liz Jarrett

Foundation

Glynys Weller

Vacancy

Staff

Sharon Jenkins

Parent

Steve Alman (Chair)

Matthew Anderson

Judie Miskimmin-Jones

Vacancy

Head Teacher

Debbie Davies

Associate

Ness Whiffin

Sue Haywood

Anne-Marie Fisher

From all the governors we wish you a very merry Christmas and a restful break and a happy 2018!

We hope you found this newsletter informative. Any comments on how it could be improved would be gratefully received; please email office.3123@hailey.oxon.sch.uk fao Eve Smith.