



Oxfordshire County Council

HAILEY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Hailey, Witney, Oxon, OX29 9UB

Hailey School Governing Body Newsletter

January 2019

Introduction

Welcome to the latest edition of the 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:

- School plan priorities:
how we did 2017/18 and what we're doing 2018/19
- Grants for new school projects and how you can help
- New learning initiatives and curriculum maps
- Sports report from our sports lead governor
- Governing body membership

School Plan Priorities

We wanted to update you on how we are doing against the priorities in our Raising Achievement Plan: the equivalent to a business plan for schools.

Priority 1: Leadership

The school has a three year plan, which sets out how we are continuing with our mission of being the best starting block for children in our care. A key objective for the last academic year was maximising income and cutting costs so we can withstand increasing pressures on the school budget. While we achieved some successes, the finances continue to be very tight.

The best way to optimise our income is to fill every space in every class so if you know of any parents locally who are looking for a school place for their child, whether it be in nursery or foundation for the coming year or even in the older classes, some of which still have a small number of places, do please encourage them to get in touch.

Our other objective was to explore collaboration options with other schools, in order to share best practice, drive school improvement and optimise our resources. Whilst we have shared training opportunities and ideas for improvement, at present there are no formal collaboration opportunities identified but this will continue to be on our watch list.

Priority 2: Quality of Teaching and Pupil Outcomes

As we reported in the summer, all our targets for progress and attainment benchmarked against national data were met with the exception of some working in greater depth scores. (i.e. the amount of pupils who are achieving above the expected level of performance.)

Despite the challenges of the new curriculum, targeted support for children and extra teaching initiatives in maths and literacy helped the school perform well. Our creative curriculum is engaging pupils, and the support of parents with homework, reading and topic work has been vital.

We will continue to push to achieve good progress and attainment for all year groups, but the key objective for next year is to increase the number of pupils working at greater depth by ensuring that those pupils who are capable of reaching a higher standard are challenged and tracked. This will include some additional interventions that will be specifically targeted at boosting skills further.

Priority 3: Behaviour and Safety

Results from 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.

An ongoing objective 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 with a particular focus on healthy relationships. The new Pupil Voice programme was introduced to support this. This year's focus will be on e-safety in an increasingly technological age.

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 initiatives were run in the school: Anti-bullying week, Science week, One-World week and Health & Safety week, as well as the diverse topic activities and school visits that each class enjoys each term.

In addition, there were a number of inter-school sports competitions that the children took part in, listed later in our sports report and the 'Young Leaders Programme:' taking children from years 5 and 6 to help staff run lunchtime sports activities for pupils at the school.

This year's focus will be on improving the emotional and physical health of children and others in the school community.

Grants for New School Projects and how you can help

With the help of the Friends and other grant submissions by teaching staff and governors, the school is raising funds for a number of school projects we want to implement that won't happen without additional financial support. These include:

- the installation of a Peace Pod in the school gardens which will create a calm outdoor learning space to support children who would benefit from working in a smaller group situation with additional support for any particular challenges they may have
- development of an outdoor kitchen for activities in our woodland
- a grounds maintenance scheme
- upgrading our school gardens
- new ICT equipment.

If you work somewhere that might be able to provide matched funding for our grant applications through a workplace charitable scheme, please get in touch.

Alternatively, if you work somewhere which might be able to help supply building, gardening or computing materials for free or at low cost we would love to hear from you.

New Learning Initiatives and Curriculum Maps

This year has seen the introduction of several new initiatives including the house points system, a new reading challenge and the online times table game 'Rock Stars.' So far, the feedback from children has been very positive and the results are coming through in their work.

Building confidence in reading and maths underpins so much in the primary curriculum and, with the advent of the new times tables tests in 2020 for year 4, getting the children used to timed practice will be a great support.

We have also reviewed the school curriculum and new two-year topic cycles have been posted on the school website. These form the basis of our curriculum. More details will be added in the spring term.

Sports Report

Taking feedback from the parent survey, we thought it would be helpful to set out all the different sporting opportunities that children enjoy at our school.

Regular Sport in the Timetable

All the children have two hours of PE every week led by sports coaches, which include: gym; dance - linked to the class topic if possible, for example bird of prey dance for Phoenix and pirate dance for Unicorns; team building; fundamental movement skills exploring agility, balance and coordination for younger children; invasion games, for example, tag rugby and football, including balls skills and tactics; and striking and fielding games, for example, rounders and Kwik Cricket.

In addition, children in KS2 (years 3-6 Phoenix and Griffin) currently swim during the summer term at Brize Norton.

Forest School or outdoor learning encompassing both sport and other lessons in an active format, including orienteering and a scavenger hunt, takes place each term. There are plans to develop this further in the summer term.

Additional coaching and lessons

We have additional coaches come in and lead sessions with the children. Last year *Chance to Shine* visited and ran a one off session for children in years 1- 6 (Unicorns, Phoenix and Griffin). In previous years we have had a term of tag rugby (Phoenix) and football (Unicorns). We are always investigating opportunities for additional coaching. DDMix (a dance company) came in during One World Week and ran a dance session linked to our chosen country.

External events and competitions

Traditionally, every child in the school attends partnership sports events at least once a year with children from other local primary schools.

The School also provided transport and staffing to enable those children who wanted to, to take part in other competitive events. Last year this included:

- Football (Yr 3 /4- Phoenix)
- Cross country (Yr 3-6 Phoenix and Griffin)
- Sports Hall athletics (Yr 5/6 Griffin)
- Quad Kids athletics (Yr 3/4 Phoenix)
- Quad Kids athletics (Yr 5/6 Griffin)

Sport during break time and after school clubs

Sports leaders are trained in Year 5. Then in Year 6 they run activities for children across the whole school overseen by a member of staff during school break times. There is a large outdoor table tennis table which the children can use during break times.

Free lunchtime clubs are run by the sports coach three times a week for children to attend. All children from Reception to Year 6 have the option to sign up for a club each term and the activities vary depending on the number of children involved. Last year activities included cross country, football, table tennis, hockey, netball, tag rugby, athletics and basketball.

Subsidised after school sports clubs run by sports apprentices three evenings a week provide further opportunities for sports including football, multiskills, gym, basketball and tennis.

Current Sports Plans

After Owls will have two supervisors for the first hour to enable outside activities to take place for all age groups. The school also plans to create a running track in the playground so that it can take part in the national daily mile initiative. The track will be a great opportunity for the children to set their own personal time and then a few weeks later see if they are able to improve on it. It will also help the school to achieve the silver level sports award for which the children need to have personal challenge. The new house system will also be used as a basis for internal school sports competitions each term.

Governing Body Membership

We would like to welcome our new staff member, Mrs Clark, to the school and are glad to hear that she has settled in so well. We currently have one vacancy for a co-opted governor, so if you are aware of any friends or family who may be interested, do please ask them to get in touch.

Co-opted

Sam Amy
Tony Hubbard
Jane Carr
Eve Smith
Graham Simpson
vacant

County

Torica Back

Associate Members

Rev Ness Whiffin
Anne-Marie Fisher

Foundation

Glinys Weller
Position filled

Head Teacher

Debbie Davies

Clerk

Liz Jarrett

Staff

Sharon Jenkins

Parent

Judie Miskimmin-Jones
Sorcha Dyer
Steve Alman (Chair)
Matthew Anderson

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.