Oxfordshire County Council

# HAILEY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Hailey, Witney, Oxon, OX29 9UB

**Hailey School Governing Body Newsletter March 2017**

**Introduction**Welcome to this term’s Hailey School Governors’ newsletter. In this edition, we will be covering the following:

* Science Week Activities
* Home School Agreement: your feedback needed
* Collaboration Update and School Budget
* Sex and Relationships Education
* Governing Body Vacancies & Membership

**Science Week Activities**Hopefully, parents are aware of the exciting activities that the children enjoyed in science week, as many of you were able to have a look at the displays in the science gallery last week. It was particularly pleasing to see so many parents get involved in sharing their experience; every class had a parent-organised activity.

Mr Anderson brought in a team from SSE to teach the children about energy and electricity. There was the chance to try out the cherry pickers, which was a real highlight for some! Mrs Ford led another brilliant practical science lesson for the Infants. There were chemical reactions and the opportunity to see an egg being sucked inside a flask. Mr Bertram wowed the children with a display of dry ice; the children had lots of questions for him! Mrs Poulter and Mr Davies came from Henry Box School; Mrs Poulter helped the Foundation stage to make a rainbow using household acids and alkalis from a cabbage universal indicator solution. Mr Davies helped the Infant class to make parachutes and consider the physics behind using parachutes of different sizes. And Mrs Beynon and Mrs Chapman came from Abingdon School and did some wonderful experiments with light.

The Lower Junior and Upper Junior children also had the chance to visit the Wood Green science labs. Mr Curtis led some exciting hands on sessions and Mrs Allington, a local geologist, helped the children to understand what we can learn about the earth from the rocks we find in the ground. A number of children brought in their own rock collections to look at with her.

We want to thank the staff, parents and visitors who made it such a memorable experience for the children and we are delighted by the positive feedback that staff and parents have had from the children who took part.

**Home School Agreement**We have just updated our Home School Agreement, which is the contract that sets out what the school’s, parents’ and children’s responsibilities are to each other, to further each child’s education in a productive home-school partnership. We are including this with the newsletter.
If you have any comments about the agreement, or suggestions for areas that are not covered, do please get in touch.

**Collaboration Update**Further to our news about collaboration in our last newsletter, we wanted to update you on recent decisions by the governing body. We still believe that formal collaboration with another school or group of schools is in the best long term interests of Hailey Primary School. However, the governing body need to be absolutely sure that any partnership we choose is going to provide ongoing benefits to the children, to the school and to the community it serves. After careful research, we have decided not to convert to an academy this school year. The situation is changing all the time as new Multi Academy Trusts are formed, and we have taken the decision to monitor these developments and reassess the situation in the new academic year.

In the meantime, the Finance and Resources sub-committee are looking at strategies to manage the budgetary pressures that we, like all state-funded schools, are facing. The cuts in national funding in real and absolute terms for our school, and the severe reduction in centralised services that we can access from the local authority, present serious challenges for the staff and governors at Hailey. We are sure you share our concern with the impact these cuts in our income could have on our lovely school, potentially limiting the wide and varied programme of extra-curricular opportunities and other learning initiatives.

Finding innovative and sustainable solutions to protect our income and our ability to provide an excellent standard of provision is now a priority for the remainder of this school year. Just one of these strategies will be to continue to investigate the business case for becoming a one-form entry school, as introduced in our parent and staff "surgeries" last term. We recently updated our three year plan which sets out our longer term objectives to ensure the school continues to deliver an outstanding level of education whilst retaining the whole child nurturing ethos that is at the heart of our school's values. We will keep you updated of any developments with these projects and welcome your continued support.

**Sex and Relationships Education (SRE)**Every parent and every school wants to see their children grow up safely and be able as adults to enjoy the positive benefits of loving, rewarding and responsible relationships. In the 21st Century, many children and young people are unfortunately exposed to sexual imagery and content from a young age in a wide array of media including adverts, the internet, video games, mobile phones, social networks, pop songs, TV and magazines. Sex and relationships education (SRE) teaches children and young people to develop their values and attitudes, to learn personal and social skills, and to increase their knowledge and understanding so that they are able to make informed decisions and healthier life choices.

This, along with our teaching on internet safety and our nurturing of self-esteem, makes an essential contribution to safeguarding children and young people during their school-age years and into the future.

Schools provide a safe place for children and young people to make sense of the information they have picked up from the media and to equip them with the values, skills and knowledge to understand and deal appropriately with these social and cultural pressures. Our staff take great care to deal with this subject sensitively and age-appropriately. It is important that children start to build up the vocabulary and confidence to talk openly and positively about emotions, relationships and their bodies.

We want to reassure you that Hailey School is looking carefully at the SRE guidance and has updated its own policy whilst ensuring it remains appropriate for our pupils and community, including our staff. At Hailey School we teach sex and relationships education within the context of a broad and balanced programme of health education. SRE is taught through the statutory requirements of the National Science Curriculum and as part of our Personal, Social, Health and Emotional (PSHE) education. Within school we provide information, in an age-appropriate context, to develop the skills and self-confidence the children will need for healthy relationships later in life and in preparing for physical and emotional changes into adulthood. This is essential, even in primary education, as some children start puberty as young as eight years old.

The school is well aware, however, that the primary role in children’s Sex and Relationships Education lies with parents and carers. We aim to complement the parent role by delivering resources to support our families in guiding their children in this important area and provide advice where requested. The full policy is available on the website. Further resources and information will be provided on the website for families’ use and reference as our programme develops. Do come and speak to Mrs Davies if you have any questions about our approach or the policy. We have an open door policy and always welcome feedback.

**Governing Body Membership**We are delighted to welcome another governor to our governing body, Steve Alman, who is our new parent governor. Steve has a background in education and sports coaching and is going to be an excellent addition to our team. Although we have a full team for now, several governors are due to step down at the end of this school year as their terms come to an end, so if any parents or staff are interested in becoming a governor, or you are aware of any friends or family who may be interested, do please ask them to get in touch. Given our priorities, we are particularly keen to find someone with financial skills or experience.

**Co-opted Foundation**Sue Haywood (Chair) Anne-Marie Fisher
Roger Cantwell Vacancy ( new reverend )
Helen Bridge **Staff**
Sorcha Dyer Sharon Jenkins
Eve Smith
Graham Simpson
**County  Head Teacher Parent**
Marjorie Ottley Debbie Davies Judie Miskimmin-Jones
**Associate Member** **Clerk** Steve Alman
Sam Amy Liz Jarrett Matthew Anderson
 Matteo Convento

*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.*