



Oxfordshire County Council

## **HAILEY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Hailey, Witney, Oxon, OX29 9UB

**Hailey School Governing Body Newsletter**

**March 2018**

### **Introduction**

Welcome to this term's newsletter. In this edition, we will be covering the following:

- Intro from the Chair
- Science Week & the Importance of Science in the Curriculum
- E-safety and its Importance
- GDPR: Implications for Parents & Staff
- Governing Body Vacancies & Membership

### **Intro from the Chair: Steve Alman**

Welcome to another edition of Hailey School's Governor Newsletter. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself since stepping into the role last autumn and taking over from Sue Haywood. I am delighted to have been given this opportunity to work alongside the fantastic team of fellow Governors to support the strategic leadership of the school. This also means I work closely with our brilliant Head Teacher, Debbie Davies and her staff team, and together we are continuing to drive the school forward to achieve our priorities.

A lot has been happening within the Governing Body recently, with new faces joining, and we are always looking to strengthen the team, so do grab me at some point if you have an interest in school governance. I will be more than happy to give you an insight!

We are entering school budget season and a lot of focus will be on trying to make the numbers work for our three year plan: an increasingly challenging objective in these budget-constrained times. I'd like to personally thank all the staff who work so hard to deliver such a thriving learning experience for our children despite resource challenges, something we'll be touching on later. And I'd also like to say a special thank you to the Friends and all the parents, children and staff who support the fundraising activities of the school. Without these additional monies, we would not be able to do so many of the activities and events that make our school special. I wish all of our school community a Happy Easter and look forward to meeting more of you in the summer term.

## **Science Week & the Importance of Science in the Curriculum**

Hopefully, parents are aware of the exciting activities that the children enjoyed in science week. During our topic open morning many of you were able to see photographs and some of the work that the children had done as well as photos of each class posted on Homeroom.

In January, the chief inspector of Ofsted, Amanda Spielman, delivered a speech at the Association for Science Education's annual conference in which she discussed the importance of a challenging curriculum with sufficient time to teach science stating "exams should exist in service to the curriculum, rather than the other way around." Ms Spielman discussed the preliminary findings of Ofsted's study into the curriculum published last autumn which raised issues including the reduction of teaching time spent on science at many primary schools in favour of preparation for English and Maths SATs. She said that: "Without a broader education, how are children to acquire vocabulary and learn about abstract concepts, as well as all the things they don't encounter in their everyday lives?"

Hailey School has chosen a curriculum which incorporates scientific learning within its topics each term and which integrates scientific learning into literacy and maths. Science Week ensures that children also get exposed to people who work in the sciences and whose talks and experiments demonstrate 'science in action' to stimulate interest and showcase what a career in the sciences looks like. The start of the week went off with a bang with all classes taking part in a rocket launch. Phoenix class (Lower Juniors) and Griffin class (Upper Juniors) visited the science labs at Henry Box school. They described the opportunity as 'exciting', 'fantastic' and 'awesome'. Unicorn class (Infants) received a visit from staff and pupils from Wood Green. They had a competition to see who could build the tallest tower.

Many parents were able to join us and contribute their own experience and enthusiasm which was fantastic. Ms Allsop organised a number of 'wow' science experiences for Unicorn class and Foundation. Mr Bertram and his colleagues gave the children an opportunity to see chemical reactions up close. He made 'elephant's toothpaste' which had the class transfixed and led experiments with the children. Mrs Doughty shared her work as an engineer and gave a rousing speech for why more women should become engineers too. She demonstrated one of their latest products that will help hospitals take blood samples much more easily and shared one of the other projects they'd been asked to work on. 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.

In addition to all of this every pupil had a chance to cook. Griffin class made butter and baked bread, Phoenix class made cheese scones, Unicorn class made unicorn fudge and Foundation made pizza. We hope you enjoyed these culinary gifts! Thanks to all those parents who sent in voluntary contributions to help us run these activities which wouldn't be able to take place otherwise and to all the parents and speakers who came to visit the school.

## **E-safety**

Young people aged between seven and 16 spend an estimated daily average of three hours online, with 15 to 16-year-olds clocking up an average of five hours. It is also a hit with pre-schoolers with 37% regularly watching YouTube videos, who typically pick 'TV content' such as cartoons and mini-movies. With thousands of apps launched daily, and rapid developments in social media, games and other online services, it is unsurprising that many parents and schools are increasingly concerned about the risks children and young people may face and online safety is an essential part of a school's safeguarding responsibilities.

The staff at Hailey School have introduced a new e-safety scheme of work which sets out how each class is going to be learning about different areas to help them stay safe online. Each term every class has a focus e.g. 'How to use the internet respectfully'. These are discussion points for the class and some of the children watch short films from the 'Thinkuknow' website as a starting point for class conversations and activities relating to the issues.

We have posted more resources on our website for parents to use as, for primary school children, most online activity takes place at home. These can be found here:

<http://www.hailey.oxon.sch.uk/our-approach/safeguarding/>

## **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)**

We are in the process of updating all of our policies to ensure we are ready for the new data protection regulations coming into force in May. We will shortly be publishing updated Privacy Notices on our website, setting out the types of personal data we collect about pupils, parents and staff, on what basis we collect it and who we share it with as well as what rights you have concerning this data.

Our Data Protection Policy has been amended to reflect the GDPR changes and this will be posted on our website next term. The new regulations require us to categorise the legal basis for processing data, using different categories. Where personal data is collected on the basis of consent, we will be writing to ask parents and staff for this. An example is the use of photos or videos of pupils at the school on the school website or marketing materials. There is no obligation for parents to agree, but it is important that these consent forms are returned promptly as the school relies on using certain images to build a picture of life at the school, and we need to understand which parents and staff are happy for us to do that.

## **Governing Body Membership**

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. Given our priorities, we are particularly keen to find someone with financial and/or IT skills or experience.

**Co-opted**

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

**County**

Torica Back

**Associate Member**

Sue Haywood  
Rev Ness Whiffin  
Anne-Marie Fisher

**Foundation**

Glinys Weller

**Vacancy****Staff**

Sharon Jenkins

**Head Teacher**

Debbie Davies

**Clerk**

Liz Jarrett

**Parent**

Judie Miskimmin-Jones

Steve Alman (Chair)

Matthew Anderson

**Vacancy**

*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](mailto:office.3123@hailey.oxon.sch.uk) fao Eve Smith.*