



Oxfordshire County Council

## **HAILEY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Hailey, Witney, Oxon, OX29 9UB

**Hailey School Governing Body Newsletter**

**April 2019**

### **Introduction**

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

- Peace Pod Grant Success: we need your help!
- Mental Wellbeing
- Science Week & the Importance of Science
- School Budget
- Governing Body Vacancies & Membership

### **Peace Pod Grant Success: we need your help!**

In our last newsletter, we updated you on some of the projects the school is fundraising for, with the help of The Friends. One of these was the installation of a Peace Pod in the school gardens to create a calm outdoor learning space to support children who would benefit from working in a small group or one-to-one. This includes additional support for any mental wellbeing issues children may have, such as anxiety, anger or depression.

The good news is that our Peace Pod has been shortlisted for the Tesco Bags of Help initiative. Shoppers are invited to head along to Tesco stores in Witney, Eynsham and Kidlington during May and June and vote for Hailey School so we can win the top grant of £4000. We are competing with two other charities, so we'd love your help!

Simply cast your vote in the special Bags of Help booths using a token from the check-out each time you shop and pass on the news to family and friends so we can get as many votes as possible. The booths aren't always by the tills so can be easy to miss and you may need to ask for your token as they don't always get given out automatically.

The Witney stores taking part are: Cogges Hill store, Deer Park store in Valence Crescent, Fettiplace store and the express store in the Esso garage on Station Lane.

Although Hailey School currently runs nurture sessions for affected children, it's difficult to find a dedicated, quiet space in the existing buildings. A special area like the Peace Pod will be of huge benefit, providing a quiet space to learn and reflect. Some pupils need help composing

themselves and developing coping strategies to focus on the day ahead. The Peace Pod will enable pupils to get confidential support and discuss any challenges with a qualified mental health first aider.

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

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

### **Mental Wellbeing**

Mental wellbeing has a huge impact on each child's development. Research shows six times more children and young people have mental health conditions now than they did a generation ago. A recent study of 7 to 14-year-olds suggests one in five children could be at risk, leading to a lack of confidence about their learning and low self-esteem. Dwindling resources in schools and mental health services only exacerbate the problem.

Hailey School is investing time and training resources to ensure our staff are equipped to help our children and we are incorporating different aspects of mental wellbeing into the curriculum. One member of staff has been trained to become a mental health first aider, and teaching staff attended the Youth in Mind Conference in Oxford which talked about strategies to promote positive mental health and wellbeing in schools.

During Mental Health Week, the school ran yoga sessions and art therapy for the children and the 'Make Me Smile Day' went down really well with pupils. A mental health charity came in and discussed strategies with Griffin class for how to recognise and manage their worries, i.e. think about who they can talk to and what they can do. Griffin class then led sessions with Phoenix and Unicorn classes which were very enthusiastically received.

Reverend Ness led an assembly on resilience and on World Health Day there was an assembly which incorporated all aspects of health such as exercise, healthy eating, good sleep habits and the positive power of friendship. Staff also enjoyed the week and were very pleased to hear parents' feedback about how happy they were to see the school supporting the children in this way.

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

We hope your children enjoyed the exciting activities in science week and thanks to those parents and staff who volunteered their time and provided such interesting talks. During our topic open mornings and class assemblies many parents were able to hear and see some of the work that the children had done as well as in the photos posted on Homeroom.

Science Week ensures that children have an opportunity to meet people who work in the sciences and to see 'science in action' which stimulates interest and showcases what a career in the sciences looks like. At the start of the week all the children were transported back in time to the land of the dinosaurs in a 'science dome'. They discovered more about dinosaurs and found out which animals are their nearest living relatives. Everyone had a chance to look

at the changes that take place when we heat up ingredients during the cooking process. We all found out about a scientist of significance and what impact their work has had on our lives. Thanks to all those parents who sent in voluntary contributions to help us run these activities and to all the parents and speakers who came to support science week at the school.

### **School Budget**

We are entering school budget season where we try to make the numbers work for our three year plan in these budget-constrained times. As you are aware, schools are under a lot of pressure as not only has income per pupil dropped in real terms but the last few years have seen a hefty rise in the cost of goods and services.

Since the start of this school year we have noticed a drop-off in the level of voluntary donations, particularly for science week. Unfortunately, the school cannot afford to continue running this level of extracurricular activities without these donations. The activities incur additional costs that have to be absorbed by the school if sufficient donations are not made, eating further into the already strapped school budget. Please do support the school by submitting these in Parent Pay so we can continue offering the children these wonderful and diverse experiences.

### **Governing Body Membership**

We currently have one co-opted governor vacancy. 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  
Eve Smith  
Graham Simpson  
*Vacancy*

#### **County**

Torica Back

#### **Associate Member**

Rev Ness Whiffin  
Anne-Marie Fisher

#### **Foundation**

Glinys Weller  
Position filled

#### **Staff**

Sharon Jenkins

#### **Head Teacher**

Debbie Davies

#### **Clerk**

Liz Jarrett

#### **Parent**

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

*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.*