



Holt Voluntary Controlled Primary School

# School Governors Newsletter

Summer 2020

## What a year!

This last year has certainly been a busy one for the school. Notable events have included:

- Our Statutory Inspection of Anglican & Methodist Schools (SIAMS) inspection, which judged the school as 'GOOD' and praised our commitment to 'offer the best possible education for all'.
- Margaret's retirement – although tinged with sadness, this has given space for others to step up and bless us with their abilities.
- And, of course, the Covid-19 pandemic, which has changed almost every aspect of school life in one way or another.

Please join us in thanking Jo Hodge and her team who have worked exceptionally hard, particularly in recent months, to provide the very best for your children.

## Did you know?

State schools like ours receive funding primarily based on the number of children on roll. For our school, this is between £3.5 and £4k per pupil per year. The more children we have, the more funding we get. We anticipate that next year we will have around 160 children on roll, which is 25 fewer than we had 3 years ago. Unfortunately there is no short-term fix to our school's funding situation.

## Sad goodbyes

Ellie Blanksby and Gemma Grierson are leaving us as we are sadly not in a position to extend their contracts. Beth King is also leaving to join the Acorn Academy. They have each made significant contributions to the school and we wish them all every success in the future.

## Thank you Jon Weeks

A massive thank you to Jon Weeks as he steps back from being a governor at the school to take a well-earned break. Jon has served the school tirelessly for 9 years as a governor, including 4 years as chair or co-chair, and will be sorely missed.

## Spotlight: Next year

As you know from our recent correspondence, as well as changes associated with the response to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the school will be structured slightly differently next year – operating with years 1, 2, 3 & 4 in three mixed-age classes. This change to the structure has not been an easy decision to take but is one that we believe is in the best-interests of the children whilst working within our limited resources.

We will also be continuing the process of recruiting a new headteacher to lead our school and should be in a position to confirm an appointment by the beginning of October.

We all know that change isn't easy and is often not to everyone's taste. Thank you for your continued support in these difficult times.

## The governor's role

We are looking for two new governors to join the board, ideally one with finance experience. Jon writes that, 9 years ago, when putting my name forward to be a School Governor, I never fully understood what the role entailed... maybe I should have done my research!

Understanding the emphasis on **safeguarding** | Recruiting staff members who will have a significant **positive influence** on the **school community** | Understanding the **sentiment and aspirations** of all staff | 2 Ofsted and 2 SIAMS **inspections** | Recruiting a new headteacher (almost!) | **Working alongside** some brilliant fellow governors who give freely of their time because they buy into the **school's team ethos** | Conflict-management with **stakeholders** (okay not a highlight but worth flagging 😊!)

One thing stands out: **the staff's genuine love for the school and their desire to give every child every opportunity** – Children are fortunate to attend such a wonderful, opportunity-rich school.

For further information and to apply, please contact [clerktogovernors@holt.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:clerktogovernors@holt.wilts.sch.uk).

Our school aims to provide a rich and creative curriculum within the context of Christian values and beliefs, which will foster within each child a lifelong love of learning.

