

HOVINGHAM AND ST. HILDA'S GOVERNOR NEWSLETTER

A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR...

Hello and welcome to the new Hovingham and St. Hilda's Federation Governor Newsletter! You've probably seen the Governor information on the website of both schools but, in an effort to make ourselves more visible and accessible, we plan to send you a newsletter from the Governing Body once a term. Governors were busy last term visiting both schools to monitor curriculum activities and to meet with subject co-ordinators. We report these monitoring visits back to the Full Governing Body at meetings. We have also supported the schools on their open days, contributed to worship, visited classrooms and some of us have undertaken training. Those sunny days at the start of the school year certainly seem a distant memory and both schools are in the full throes of academic Year 2019/2020!

GOVERNOR NEWS

OFSTED UPDATE – the new OFSTED framework came into place in September and the focus of OFSTED visits has changed. Schools are assessed according to four strands: quality of education; behaviour and attitudes; personal development and, finally, leadership and management. Perhaps the most significant development in this new framework is a move away from judging schools on performance data to place greater emphasis upon the quality of the school's curriculum. The aim is to ensure that the focus of a school is placed upon how all pupils develop the detailed and long-lasting knowledge and skills required for them to advance through their next stage of education and to achieve their own aspirations. For the full OFSTED Framework, please follow this

link:https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/801429/Education_inspection_framework.pdf

PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE – many thanks for those parents who responded to the questionnaire sent out at the start of November. Thank you, also for the good feedback and helpful comments we have received! We always actively consider your constructive comments and do our best to ensure that the school is working for all. If you have any related or further comments, please contact Mr Pynn headteacher@hshafed.co.uk

ENGLISH HUB – St. Hilda's school was granted some valuable funding and expert training in order to further improve its phonics provision. This will have a positive impact not only at St. Hilda's but also across all stages in the Federation. Training will be disseminated across both schools and phonics resources will be updated to offer the highest quality early reading books. Mrs. Dodds-Aston and class teachers from both schools put on a very informative phonics information session for parents at both schools. It was well attended and if anyone has further questions, please get in touch.

A BIG THANK YOU...

Of course, the Headteacher and the governors aren't the only leaders in the Federation and every term we would like to highlight, and say thank you to, others who have led the way. From the Autumn term, many thanks goes to:

- Early Years teachers across the Federation who have helped new pupils and parents to become more familiar with their school, especially through the Stay and Play sessions and the Phonics training.
- Mrs. Wood and Mrs. Clarke for inspiring us all to get our wooden spoons out and blow the dust off those old children's books for a great book and bake sale in aid of the Early Years' Sandpit Fund, in memory of Harry Flatt, at Hovingham. Gary and Elissa would like to extend their heartfelt appreciation to all involved, to create a lasting memory in Harry's name.
- Barney for approaching Mr. Pynn, by email, with not just an idea but a complete plan for a Lego Club at Hovingham. Well done, Barney – your well thought out email made it happen!

We don't want any hard work to slip under the radar so if you feel that anyone you know in the Federation has led the way in any area of school life, please let us know what they have done by emailing the Chair or Vice-Chair. Thank you!

AND FINALLY...

Governing Body Membership – we are always in search of people to join our hardworking team. A school governor is a voluntary position that certainly requires commitment but it is extremely rewarding. To enhance the skillset of our current Governing Body, we are looking for people who have particular skills in finance and human resources. If you would like any further information, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Almond.

We wish you all a very Happy New Year and we look forward to working with everyone at Hovingham and St. Hilda's in 2020.