

# Governors' Newsletter

## Thorpe Hesley Primary School



Mrs Trudi Toms  
Headteacher



Mrs Kerry Hattersley  
Chair of Governors

### Spring Term 2016

# Welcome back Mrs Toms!

Welcome to our latest Newsletter – we hope that you find these newsletters informative – we would love to hear any feedback, or if there is anything that you would like to see included, please let us know via the contacts on the last page.

The last few weeks before Christmas were very busy in school, with all classes preparing for and performing in their Christmas plays, visiting the pantomime, attending gift services in church and having Christmas dinner in school. It was apparent to the governors how hard all the staff had worked to make the festive period special for the children and we do thank them for their considerable efforts. Our children are very lucky to attend a school that is so focused on ensuring the children are balanced individuals.



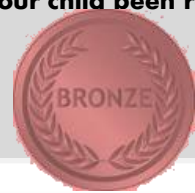
Special mention must go to all the staff, but in particular Mrs Green in the Infant Building and Mrs Reasbeck in the Junior Building, for maintaining the school systems smoothly in the absence of Mrs Toms. We hope you will agree that school continued to run as usual, due of course to the planning and work of all staff.

**As Valentine's Day approaches, we will be letting special people all around us know how much we appreciate them. Throughout school, there are a whole range of ways in which children are rewarded.**

**Foundation Stage operate 'caught-you' cards, issued when staff have observed children doing the right thing. 'Weekend Ted' is also loaned to a child who has stood out in the week. Key stage 1 have 'golden tickets' issued in a similar way. In key stage 2, children are chosen to sit on the 'special table' at lunch, and across school, children have merit cards which contribute to Bronze, Silver etc, Awards.**

**A 'star of the week' is nominated weekly from each class, celebration assemblies are held each Friday to recognise an achievement, and termly and annual attendance is rewarded with a certificate. Of course, there are also the Governor Awards, nominated by staff in school and selected by a panel from the governing body, of which more later.**

**As Governors we are very proud that our school recognises pupil behaviour and attainment in this way – we think it is setting a lovely example to the children that if they put the effort in, they will be rewarded, and that the children feel valued for their contribution. Has your child been rewarded?**



### Visits this term...

As governors we are required to undertake visits to school; usually around the area that we have responsibility, so that we can observe the environment and practice in classrooms, and potentially feed back any concerns to the whole governing body. This term the following visits have been undertaken: Kerry Hattersley and Joanne Hawkrige met with Mrs Stephenson, to look at Foundation Subjects (History, Geography and Religious Studies); Kerry also met the Head teacher to discuss safeguarding; Emma Crarer has visited Mr Scotton and Ms Lillekar to look at Maths in school; Sarah Scott and Pat Jones visited the Foundation Stages; and Pat visited Mrs Green to look at PE and school sport in the Infant building. All reports are available through governing body minutes – governors have been very impressed by teaching staff and the breadth of the curriculum on offer.



### More about us...

In this newsletter we introduce Tracy Barker, the last of our sub-committee chairs to be introduced, and Joanne Hawkrige, our newest governor. All governors are named on page 4

### Tracy Barker

Hi my name is Tracy Barker and I am chair of the Data Sub committee and the governor responsible for overseeing Inclusion. I started as a governor at the Juniors, and I have been one for nearly seven years now. When I joined I had no idea what a governor did or what was involved, which was one of the reasons I joined: curiosity; and also because my son was attending the Junior school.

I have lived in Thorpe Hesley nearly all my life, I actually attended Thorpe Hesley school myself, and I am a working mum of one boy now 16 and getting ready to start college. Because I only work part time I volunteer one afternoon a week helping the children with their times tables and helping at school events.

When I look back at when I first joined the governors it was very scary but I am so glad I did it, there is no better feeling than going in to school and seeing children who are so obviously happy to be there and really enjoying their learning. It makes me feel extremely proud to feel I have been part of a team that has ensured that our school is "Where children grow".



enjoying their learning. It makes me feel extremely proud to feel I have been part of a team that has ensured that our school is "Where children grow".

Having sub committees allows us to split the governing body into smaller groups to focus on key areas. The whole governing body and each of the sub-committees meet each term.

### Joanne Hawkrige

As the newest member of Thorpe Hesley Governing Body I thought I would write a few words regarding my first few months in the role.

My understanding of becoming a parent Governor was that I would help in decision making, and be a voice for parents and their children in school. As I joined the Governing body, the school had gone through a big change, merging as a Primary school, so I was a little worried this was going to be a challenging time to start.

It was a new experience attending my first meeting, but the team made me feel very welcome, and as there were a lot of familiar faces, I felt at ease very quickly. After attending an induction course which gives you a thorough insight of the role of a governor, I first found this a little daunting as I didn't quite realise just how much I needed to know, but over time I'm sure I will pick things up from the more experienced governors and I was pleased to learn of future courses I can attend to broaden my knowledge and look forward to the challenge.

As mentioned in the newsletter, Kerry and I visited the school to look at Foundation subjects, this was my first visit to the junior building and I was amazed at the quality of work on display. I continue to thoroughly enjoy spending time on a weekly basis in school and taking an active interest in its future.



### Survey time...

Thank you to those of you who have gone online and given your views, Particularly after Mrs Toms' letter last week. As governors we are very interested in the results. Please log on through parentview to give your views on our school, and remember, if you have any issues that you do not feel have been dealt with, as governors we are always here to help!



## New curriculum

You may be aware that this year we have had to implement a new curriculum in school which has meant changes not only for the pupils, but for our staff.

The Senior Leadership team has maintained a strong focus in this area – changes to the curriculum and to the end of Key Stage 1 and 2 assessments have been implemented through sharing best practice with other schools, assessing all information available, attending courses, and undertaking training.

The goal has been to ensure not only that the school delivers effectively, but that pupils get the best from the varied curriculum, achieve to the best of their ability, but are not aware of the increased pressures and uncertainty around the changes.

The governing body has written to staff to advise that it is impressed with the level of work in this area and the implementation of the new curriculum. Outside visitors to school have remarked positively on the breadth of the curriculum on offer at Thorpe Hesley Primary School.

# Governor Awards

Our fabulous winners of the Autumn Term Governor Awards are as follows:

### Governor Citizen Award WINNERS

FS : **Ruby Kent**  
and **Jacob Morley**  
Year 1: **Darcy**  
**Allot** and **Jacob Leatham**  
Year 2: **Charlie-Lexi**  
**Baldwin**, and **Thomas**  
**Pickering**  
Year 3: **Isabella**  
**Dunning** and **Max Smalley**  
Year 4: **Ellie Swinn** and **Willem**  
**Critch**  
Year 5: **Daisy Gutteridge** and  
**Dillon Bryan**  
Year 6: **Emily Walters**  
and **Noah Ward**



### Governor Academic Award WINNERS

KS1: **Lily Bamford** and **Cameron**  
**Taylor-Pickering**  
KS2: **Ellie Clarke** and **Adam Laws**

### Highly Commended:

FS: **Isabel Wiseman**, **Daniel Riley**,  
**Freddie Cooke-South**, **Leon Scallan**.  
Y2: **Lily Shenton**, **Ameera-Leigh Kelly**,  
**Freya Dawson**.  
Y3: **Adam Laws**, **William Taylor**.  
Y4: **Erin Mangham**, **Scarlett Wallace**,  
**Emily Thomas**.  
Y5: **Charlotte Green**.  
Y6: **Ben Wilmot**, **Emily Tordoff**, **Lucy**  
**Moorhouse**.

Have you ever noticed how amazing our displays are in school? This is not the case in every school – our external visitors often remark on how beautiful our school looks. At the moment there are some fabulous winter scenes in school and the governing body peacock is gorgeous! What an incentive for the children to do their very best work!

# Who we are

Our Governors give up their time each term to make your school a better place. Please find details of our current Governing Body, our responsibilities, and our link to school.

Name	Role (Area of responsibility)	Link to school
Kerry Hattersley	Chair Safeguarding Equality	Isabelle in Year 4
Andrew Sowerby	Vice Chair ICT and Computing Pupil Progress and Data	Children have been through school
Tracy Barker	Inclusion Pupil Premium	Child has been through school
Alison Briddock	Training and Development	Thomas in Year 3
Clare Chappell	Parent Governor	Thomas in Year 6
Jackie Davis	Anti-bullying Pay committee appeal	Long standing school governor
Emma Crarer	Premises, Health and Safety Committee Chair Mathematics	Alena in Year 4
Denise Green	Associate Member	Child has been through school
Joanne Hawkridge	Foundation Subjects	Lily in Y2, Jude F1
Pat Jones	Curriculum and Standards Committee Chair Literacy PE	Grandchildren have been through school
Eileen Leeson	Science	Children have been through school
Donna Oakley	Staff Governor	Ayla in Year 1
Judy Reid	Staffing and Finance Committee Chair	Child has been through school
Louise Reasbeck	Associate Member	Children have been through school
Sarah Scott	Looked After Children Foundation Stage	Ben in Year 2, Millie in F2
Louise Smelt	Science	Children have been through school
Trudi Toms	Staff Governor	Head teacher!!
Helen Whitworth	Associate Member	Children have been through school
Denise Woodcock	Staff Governor	Children have been through school
Phil Wood	Clerk to the Governing Body	We are just lucky! Phil is an experienced clerk of a few Rotherham schools.

**Contact us:**  
Kerry Hattersley  
c/o Thorpe Hesley Primary School

Or please contact the  
relevant Governor if  
you have a specific query