

Governors' Newsletter

Thorpe Hesley Primary School



Mrs Trudi Toms
Headteacher



Mrs Kerry Hattersley
Chair of Governors

Autumn Term 2017-18



Welcome to the Autumn term newsletter! There has not been a newsletter for a while, because it has been a particularly busy time for governors with over the last few months. Recruitment has taken place to replace Mrs Reasbeck, and we're sure you agree that Mrs Rawlinson has stepped into those shoes fabulously! We have hosted some very important visits from the Local Authority impressed by the school and wishing to visit (and admire), and then you are most definitely aware that we had a hugely successful visit from Ofsted just before the end of last term!

This was fabulous news for us as governors, and confirmed what we already knew. Governors were interviewed by Ofsted, and we were thrilled by their comments on governance. What the school itself will not say, (but we will), is that the report is exceptional. The tone and content are completely unique, and many people from within the education profession have been at great pains to let us know that they have never read anything like it. If you have time we urge you to select a few other schools and read their report for comparison – it will show you how truly fantastic our visit was, our school is, and how lucky our children are to be here.

To receive outstanding in one area is an achievement – but to get outstanding in ALL AREAS is extremely difficult, and in fact we are one of only three schools in Rotherham to achieve this during that academic year. Proving we are indeed, the best school in Rotherham (and indeed the world).

As ever, we hope you find this newsletter informative. Please do let any one of us know if there is something specific you would like to see covered in here.

As ever, it has been a very busy time in school. For those of you who managed to see a Christmas play I am sure you were as impressed as we were. As a Governing Board we said goodbye to Eileen Leeson, who will definitely be missed after serving the school for a good number of years!

The school looked lovely for Christmas. Did you know that all the staff stay behind after school on one agreed day so that the children leave the school looking normal, then come in to find that 'Christmas' has arrived overnight?! Just another example of the staff going 'over and above,' and how magical for the children.



Governor Awards

We absolutely love giving out governor awards, and hope that you are really proud of the children who are nominated by staff in school. This term's fabulous winners are:

FS –
Year 1 -
Year 2 -
Year 3 –
Year 4 –
Year 5 -
Year 6.



Visits this term...

Governing Boards are modernising, and are asked to play a key part in school leadership. To support this, governors are encouraged to attend relevant training, and within this school we assign specialisms, then make visits in school to check on and understand actions and progress in this area. This term Kerry Hattersley has met with Mrs Toms to look at Equality and Safeguarding in school, Jo Hawkridge has visited the Foundation stage and Sarah Scott has visited to look at support for pupil premium and vulnerable children. Visit reports are available should you wish to find out more.

More about us...

Following on from our section on Mr Parkin, this time we shine the spotlight on Mrs Cullumbine, Foundation Stage Lead.

Survey time...

Thank you to those of you who have gone online and given your views. As governors we are very interested in the results and how the school is viewed. 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!



Where did you train / go to university?

I went to Bretton Hall College and studied Child Psychology and English. Sadly the college no longer exists. It was the beautiful building in the grounds of Yorkshire Sculpture Park. I then went on to do a PGCE at St. John's College in York.

Who inspires you?

I was inspired to go into teaching by my dad, although he always tried to put me off it! I knew from an early age that I wanted to teach and loved listening to his stories of school life. My mum is also my inspiration as I aspire to have the kind and caring heart that she had. She was a wonderful person and loved by everyone.

What is your best quality?

This is a hard one to answer. I would like to think that people think that I am a creative teacher.

Who is special in your life ?

My family definitely, this includes my husband and three children and my two sisters. I don't know what I would do without them and they all support me in everything that I do.

What would be your super power?

Super organised woman!!

What was the last thing that made you laugh?

The amazing children in my class. Mrs West and I make sure we have a laugh with the children every day.

What is the best thing about your job?

Everything. I love all aspects of teaching but I especially love bringing stories to life.

Full English Breakfast or porridge?

Porridge with treacle

What is your goal for next year?

To try and overcome my fear of flying.

Dog or cat?

Dog. I am trying to convince Mrs Toms to have an office dog that I can take home at night as we don't have one.

Who would you invite to a dream dinner party?

People who make me laugh. Oh and Gary Barlow.

What is your favourite book?

The Velveteen Rabbit

What is your favourite film?

Armageddon

What is your favourite subject to teach? Why?

Literacy. I have always loved books especially children's stories.

What are your hobbies and interests?

Spending time with my children. Running and Karate – I'm nearly a brown belt!

Do you have children?

Yes 3. Two who attend THP and 1 who is at Wingfield School.

What is your favourite pizza topping?

Goats cheese and caramelised onion.

Why are you a teacher? What made you choose this job?

I was inspired to teach by my dad but I have always loved spending time helping children to reach their full potential. I love awe and wonder moments.

Where is your favourite holiday destination?

Croyde bay. I go every year with my family and we love it there. Don't tell anyone though as it is a hidden treasure.

When is your favourite time of year in school?

Summer term when we can enjoy our outdoor learning to the fullest although I am always sad to say goodbye to my class.

Academy News

You may, or may not, have given consideration to whether Thorpe Hesley Primary will enter into an Academy. Until recently, becoming an Academy was mandatory, and while the Government have relaxed this mandate, the local preference is still that Academisation provides opportunities and stability.

A letter will be coming out to parents with this newsletter. As some of us are parents ourselves we wanted to try and pre-empt your concerns, and your questions. We have picked out the top three below, and provide our views. Representatives from the Governing Board will be present at the meeting on 1 February, so we will be happy to discuss further there.

Question 1 – Will Academisation impact the success of the school and mean it is no longer outstanding, as it moves to support other schools?

Absolutely not. Part of the attraction of creating a new Academy is that we can choose like-minded schools, and the schools we will work with all have a creative curriculum at their heart. A good reading of our Ofsted report will show that planning, leadership and teaching in school is detailed, more than fit-for-purpose, and supports children's development. Academisation will bring an opportunity to share these attributes wider than just Thorpe Hesley, to benefit an increased number of children.

Question 2 – Will it mean that teachers are spread out across the schools and my child/ren will not have access to the same standard of teaching and learning?

No. Part of being outstanding means that Ofsted, and the Local Authority, are keen for us to share this best-practise, so we already run training courses across the borough and beyond. This has been in place for considerable time, and clearly the children have not suffered to date. One change since our Ofsted visit is that we are now charging for this professional development; meaning we are increasing resources to spend in school in these difficult times of government cut-backs. Ofsted commended our support staff, who are completely competent in covering classes during the short amount of time teachers are away learning, or supporting development to others. Children are likely to notice no change whatsoever.

Question 3 – What does Academisation mean for me/my child/ren?

Likely nothing. We will retain our own identity, our uniform, our processes, and the exact same leadership as now. Children or parents will not see a day-to-day change to how the school looks, acts or is run. The only change will be an increased opportunity for children to work with children from outside the school – for example we might run reading competitions, or have visits to look at an area of learning that has been particularly successful.

Mrs Toms has agreed to provide Executive Leadership to the Academy, and Kerry Hattersley (Chair of Governors) has agreed to Chair the Board of Trustees to the Academy, so Thorpe Hesley's views and preferences remain very much represented at this new level.

Hopefully this has laid your mind at ease, but the meeting on 1 February is there for those parents/carers with additional questions.

Who we are

Our Governors give up their time each term to provide support, guidance and offer expertise to the school. All of our governors are passionate about Thorpe Hesley Primary School and want to help the school succeed. Please find details of us, our responsibilities, and our link to school, below.

Name	Role (Area of responsibility)	Link to school
Trudi Toms	Staff Governor	Head teacher!
Kerry Hattersley	Chair Safeguarding, Equality and Website	Isabelle in Year 6
Andrew Sowerby	Vice Chair ICT, Pupil Progress and Data	Children have been through school
Alison Briddock	Staffing and Curriculum Chair Training and Development	Thomas in Year 5
Emma Crarer	Premises, Health and Safety Committee Chair Mathematics	Alena in Year 6
Joanne Hawkrige	Foundation Stage	Lily in Y4, Jude Y1
Pat Jones	Staffing and Finance Committee Chair Literacy and PE	Grandchildren have been through school
Donna Oakley	Staff Governor	Ayla in Year 3
Judy Reid	Co-opted Governor	Child has been through school
Sarah Scott	Special Educational Needs Inclusion and Pupil Premium	Ben in Year 4, Millie in Y2
Louise Smelt	Science	Children have been through school
Helen Screaton	Clerk to the Governing Body	Works in school

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

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