



Mrs Trudi Toms
Head Teacher



Mrs Kerry Hattersley
Chair of Governors

Summer Term 2017-18

Welcome to the Summer Term Governors' Newsletter – which is now electronic! Another year has flown by, and this week we say goodbye to most of our Year 6 children – as they move to their new life in their chosen secondary school. It has been a busy year staffing wise, as we have said goodbye to a couple of our lovely staff, welcomed a couple back from Maternity Leave, and now prepare to lose another couple as they leave to start their families or take up new posts. Good Luck to them all!

General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

You may have noticed that lots of our forms are changing. This is due to our adherence to the new GDPR rules. The school takes its responsibilities in this are very seriously, and we have been involved in a working party rolling or the new legislation across Rotherham.

Our PTA..

Did you know we have a PTA in school, who are always looking to raise money? The PTA meet once a term, and if you are interested in being involved you should speak to either office in the first instance.

ACADEMY UPDATE

The first MAT Trust Meeting was held on Monday 25 June 2018. The Board of Trustees are committed to making the new Academy a success, and both Thorpe Hesley and Redscope Schools have submitted documentation to the Department for Education to officially move into the Academy. The process can be quite slow, so no other real news yet, but we will keep you posted...

When governors are elected, this is for a set period, usually four years, and this term saw our fantastic Vice-Chair, Emma Crarer, retire from the Board. Emma will be hugely missed, as she has been instrumental in the last few years developing excellence across the Board. We do welcome two new governors; Martin Laycock and Andrew Askwith, who have already brought some great new skills to the Board, so we look forward to working more with them. Our new picture is below, although Andrew conveniently booked a holiday to avoid this...!



Visits to school continue, with those governors with areas of responsibility meeting staff leads to discuss progress. All our reports are available, so please do ask if you wish to know more. This term Kerry Hattersley met Mrs Toms to discuss safeguarding, equality and anti-bullying. Sarah Scott met Mrs Hewitt to discuss SEN and Pupil Premium, Jo Hawkrige met Mrs Cullumbine to discuss the Early Years Foundation Stage and Emma Crarer discussed Mathematics with Mrs Lilliker. All the reports were positive and evidenced continuing improvements in these areas.

So long, farewell Thorpe Hesley Primary!

After 8 amazing years, my term serving as a parent governor is sadly coming to an end. With my daughter Alena and her fellow Y6 students also leaving to go up to secondary school, we sat down with another Y6er, our friend Isabelle, and reflected over a burger on our time at the best school in Rotherham, and indeed the world! If you're saying goodbye to THPS this year, what are the memories that you'll take with you?

What is your earliest memory of THPS?

Emma: I remember the first day in Foundation Unit, Mrs Green telling all the parents - politely, but firmly - to give the children their bags and let them walk themselves into school. It all felt very grown up!

Alena: I remember getting a sticker and having my photo taken, but I don't remember why!

Isabelle: I remember in Foundation Unit racing outside at playtimes to try and grab the 2-seater bike first, so I could play on it with my friend. All the other bikes only had 1 seat, but the 2-seater bike was special.

What's the best thing you'll remember from your time at THPS?

Alena: The Boggle Hole trip was great fun. I think the Y6 Prom will be the best ever!

Isabelle: I'm very proud that I won Rotherham Young Musician of the Year in Y6. [Congratulations, Isabelle!]

Emma: The day we found out about our amazing OFSTED result was such a nerve wracking, but amazing day. I was so pleased and proud for everyone involved. Until I became a governor I had no idea just how much hard work goes on behind the scenes that students, parents, and carers don't always see, so to have all of school's hard work and achievements recognised in this way was fantastic.

I think I'll also always remember sitting in Mrs Toms' office one day when Mrs Oakley came in and asked me to "come and have a photo taken with an octopus"! [It turned out to be a pupil in a brilliant costume they'd made for their 'under the sea day', but you don't get offers like that in your day job!]

Do you remember any particular challenges that you've had to deal with?

Isabelle: I think the most difficult thing is going to be when we have to leave.

Emma: I remember the amalgamation of the infant and junior schools was really hard work, but we learned so much, and I think we came through it better and stronger.

Alena: My worst ever day was when I didn't get Ms Stephenson again as my Y6 teacher. I was really sad, but I like being in Mr Hanson's class, so it was OK in the end. Oh, and having to put up with Mr Docherty's batman socks - they were terrible!

Is there anything particular from THPS that you think will stay with you after you leave?

Isabelle & Alena: Music. I hope we'll keep playing, and when we're older we'll look back and think it all started here.

Emma: I've really enjoyed the visits to church in our Easter bonnets or Christmas jumpers, carrying tins of beans or some other little gift. Every time we went, it made me feel very lucky to be part of a great school that tries in its own small way to do its bit for our local community. I will always think of the children, families, friends and staff of THPS as a fabulous example of what it means to be a citizen of the world, treating one another with love, kindness and respect.

How would you describe THPS in one word?

Alena & Isabelle: Outstanding! Can we add "in all areas"? That's four words, but Mrs Toms would want us to put that.

A huge thank you to Emma Crarer for the time and effort she has devoted to school. We will miss her on Governing Board very very much!



Meet the new Governors – Martin and Andrew

Andrew Askwith

I have Jacob in F2 and a younger child, Lily.

I have worked in finance all of my career. This started straight from leaving school and working for a high street bank (NatWest), to running my own business as an Independent Financial Advisor. I am a Chartered Financial planner and also attained my Fellowship of the personal Finance Society. I am part of the Finance sub-committee, so my skills come into play here.

What interested me in becoming a governor was being able to give something back to the school and the local community. I have noticed since Jacob has started how much the school tries to integrate with the parents and the wider conducts itself on all levels. I feel that with my experience and knowledge of the financial sector this will provide useful for the school especially with all of the challenges around budgets that will probably be an issue for many years to come.



Martin Laycock

I have Hannah in Year 6, and Daniel in Year 3.

Professionally, I am a Project Manager within Tax Technology at HSBC, based in Sheffield. This gives me experience of budgetary and finance work and I am looking forward to bringing this skillset to the Governing Board.

I am very keen to work with the existing Governors for Thorpe Hesley and hopefully bring something to the team. I am not afraid of getting stuck in and enjoy learning new skills and taking on new knowledge, which I am sure this opportunity will bring. Hopefully I am open and approachable too.

I have already brought my Project Management experience to the role as I am working in a sub-group, with governors and school staff, to look at ways of seeking funding to support the school and increase its resources for our children!

Sarah Hewitt

Having completed a Geography degree at Durham University and then a PGCE at Edge Hill University, I began teaching at Thorpe Hesley in 2007 when, for my first term as a qualified teacher, we were relocated to Magna due to asbestos being found in the school roof! What a start! In my eleven years here, I have taught all year groups from Year 1 to Year 5 and have had various responsibilities including PE Coordinator, Music Subject Leader, Student Mentor Coordinator and Inclusion Manager. For the last four years, since returning part-time from maternity leave, I have worked within the Inclusion team, monitoring attainment and coordinating provision for various groups of pupils, including Pupil Premium, Summer Born and high and low attaining pupils. From September, I will be upping my hours to four days a week and will be continuing this role, as well as taking the lead on school assessments. If any of you should have any queries regarding any aspect of school that I can help you with as Assistant Head Teacher, please don't hesitate to get in touch and I will be happy to help you out as best I can. In my spare time, I love spending family time with my husband and our four year old son, George. I also play for badminton teams in both the Barnsley and Huddersfield leagues and love a good holiday in the Alps (walking up them in Summer and skiing down them in Winter).



Sarah Stephenson

Hello, my name is Sarah Stephenson and from September I will be one of the Assistant Heads at school. I currently teach Year 6 but since I qualified in 2006, I have taught all the year groups, in Key Stage 2, at some point. Thorpe Hesley has been my home for 8 years now but previous to that I worked in 3 other schools: Jump Primary, Brierley CofE and Brinsworth Whitehill where I first met Trudi Toms. Since I qualified, I have also taken a year off to travel the world and as many of you know I still love to travel to new places and learn about their culture and history. While I was training to be a teacher, my degree was in history which is why I lead geography and history through school. When I am not at school, I love to go hiking, cycling and even climbing as well as making sure I get some skiing in too. I love to read and watch films: my favourite author is Harlan Coben and my favourite film is The Shawshank Redemption.

Message from the Chair

Today is a very strange day for me. After 10 years, this will be the last day that I have a child in Thorpe Hesley Primary School. I feel that the last year has gone way too quickly, and I'm not ready to have exclusively secondary-age children, but mainly I feel a kind of sadness that my children are leaving a family behind. In this role I have been in a good few schools across Rotherham, and while there are undoubtedly some lovely schools, this one is, for me, particularly special, and I will miss being personally involved as a parent.

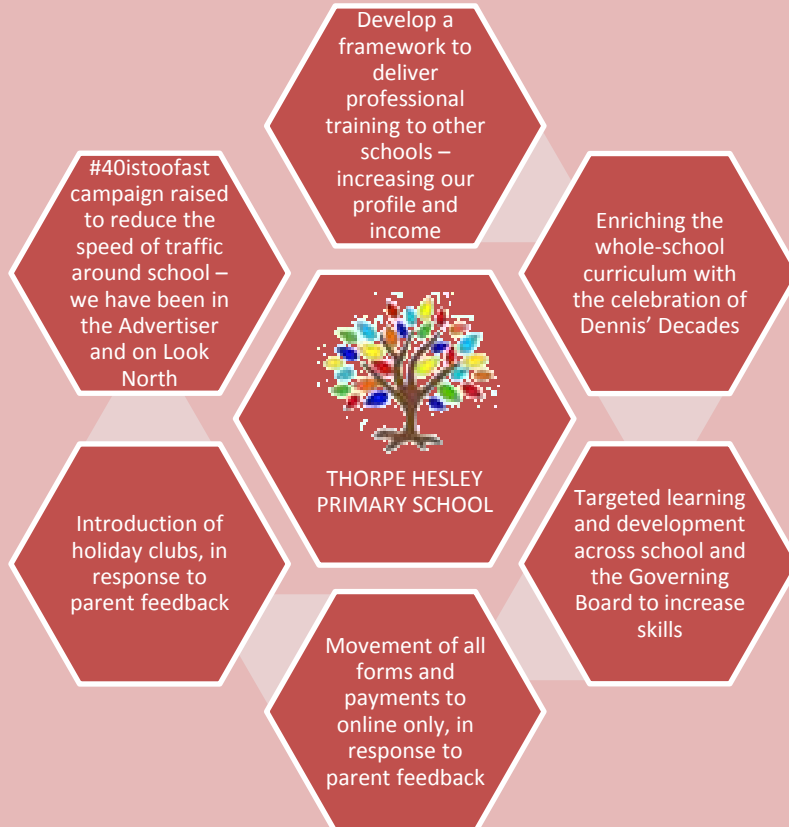
Year 6 has been an experience, and I have to thank the Y6 staff because I really do feel that the children were as prepared as they could be for the SATs, and the tests were well and truly taken in their stride. It has felt like the culmination of everything to that point; from that first day when Mrs Green comforted me as George was taken into the Red Class, (I didn't even know I was crying), to the last few days for Isabelle of Proms, Picnic Lunches and Leaving Assemblies, (I think they like you to cry...) I could go back and name all the teachers that my children have had, and who have made a difference, but actually it would be the whole school, including office staff who call me to say we've forgotten the flute/sax/ homework/ to book breakfast club, (oops), support staff who cover lessons and notice hidden talents, F1 staff who build the bridge from home to school, class teachers who get to know the children so well and play to their strengths, and of course our fantastic Head Mrs Toms, who is determined to ensure the school responds well to the needs of our children.

I'm glad I get to remain as part of that in a governor capacity, but I will certainly miss it all as a parent... those secondary schools have a lot to live up to!

Thank you to all the staff for a lovely 10 years which has definitely helped shape my children, and I am sure many more, into who they are today. - Kerry Hattersely

OUTSTANDING... One Year On

The end of this term marks the one-year anniversary of our Ofsted rating of outstanding in all areas. Here are just some of the continuous improvement activities we have undertaken...





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.

We will be giving out Governor Awards to the rest of our pupils in the final weeks of term. However, every year we have extra special governor awards to celebrate our year 6 children.

Year 6 Winners:

Lybah Ali
Ethan Bliss
Evie Buxrton
Joe Colgrave
Molly Cullumbine
Jack Dimler
Harley Earnshaw
Marco Giagnacovo
Adam Greensmith
Isabelle Hattersley
Rowan Jubb
Harry Love
Joel Naylor
Sam Radford
Hannah Rushton-Jones
Evie Smith
Emily Thomas
Georgie Watson
Aimee Wilson

Tom Ashforth
Devon Burgin
Mollie Clarke
Alena Crarer
Ashton Davies
Evelyn Drury
Gerrard Ellis
Aiden Grattan
Olivia Hanson
Autumn Hemingway
Oliver Lack
Camron Macleod
Scott Nicholls
Lily Rigby
Poppy Slater-Heap
Kacie-Rae Tandy
Archie Turner
Mia Watson

Katy Barnes
Owen Burns
Matthew Cockings
Willem Critch
Amelie Dean
Billy Dunn
Melissa Ellis
Evie Grattan
Jamie Harris
Oliver Hindley
Hannah Laycock
Erin Mangham
Ryan Parkinson
Fraser Rouston
Maddox Smedley
Isabelle Tate
Amy Ward
Madeline Wilmot



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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 just leaving Year 6
Andrew Askwith	TBC	Jacob in F2
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 just leaving 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
Martin Laycock	GDPR Wellbeing	Hannah jut leaving Year 6, Daniel in Year 3
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