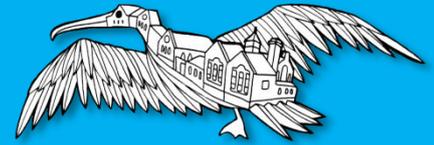


# Hotwells Primary School

## Governor Newsletter

Autumn 2015



### A Look Back on 2014 - 15

What an incredible year 2014-15 was for Hotwells! From our Wonderful World of Reading Week in September to the grand opening of our School Green, the children have been part of a special year.

As mentioned separately, our children's achievements and attainments have continued to grow and pupils are leaving school fully equipped for the next stage of their school journeys, both academically but also equipped for life as responsible, compassionate and environmentally aware young people.

Sporting opportunities have been high on the agenda over the last year and we entered an unprecedented number of interschool competitions. Huge thanks go to the staff that make these events possible. We were also the proud winners of the Small Schools Swimming trophy for this first time.

Residential trips and school visits are always a highlight of the year and our Year 4, 5 and 6 camps were no exception; I was very happy to be able to visit the classes on their camps and experience life at Charterhouse and Osmington Bay. For the younger children days out and time spent at Forest School were just as valuable an experience. Our unique position in the city centre means we can access so much of what Bristol has to offer and build it into a rich curriculum full of local opportunities.

Arts Week and our part in the Bristol Arts Trail remain important parts of Hotwells' enrichment and our very own Shaun the Sheep and a chance to work with

Bristol artist Jenny Urquhart have been added to the mix. I hope many of you were able to experience the children's art work on display last weekend.

KS2's Carol Concert, KS1's Nativity plays and the Christmas Cracker remain a special part the year at Hotwells and, I am sure, will be treasured memories for years to come. 'The Lion King' in July gave Year Six's final term at primary school an unparalleled finale!

Our PTA events have given a lovely community feel to the year but have also raised the most incredible amount of money (pledged to the Green) for our school.

I have been warmly welcomed to Hotwells by children, parents, governors and staff alike. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know this very special school and look forward with enthusiasm to embarking on the next stage of its journey.

~ Catherine Delor

### Hotwells Results Success

This is a good time to celebrate the impressive set of results our school achieved in 2014-15. These are available in detail on the school website but here is a quick summary that shows what fantastic and enthusiastic learners Hotwells pupils are.

In Key Stage 1, the results were well above the national levels and above the national age related expectations for reading, writing and maths. Writing was above the national average with a significant increase in the



amount of pupils achieving level 2B and above. Reading results were also particularly good with level 3 results for reading remaining high at 40% compared with a national average of 31%. When the scores are averaged we can see that attainment is higher than in the previous 4 years so well done to all those pupils and teachers.

In Key Stage 2, the proportion of pupils that achieved level 4 and 5 was above the national average in maths, reading and writing. In total, 81% achieved Level 4 in maths, reading and writing compared with a national average of 75%, and 41% of pupils achieved Level 5 compared to a national average of 24%. The number of pupils achieving Level 6 was also above the national average in maths and writing.

These are exceptional results and all Hotwells pupils and staff should be rightly proud of themselves – well done to all.

## Musical Magic



Over the past year, increasing the provision of music across the curriculum has been a key aim for the school. A programme of music was rolled out with every class having the chance to learn a new and exciting instrument. Starting in Class 2, pupils enjoyed learning the recorder and from Class 3 it was the distinctive sound of the steel drums that rang throughout the building. Our former Class 4 had the opportunity learning the ukulele, Class 5 the drums and finally Year 6 had a chance to form their own rock band called the Psychedelic Bananas which performed a concert to parents. This has been a hugely rewarding experience leading to many pupils being able to pick up an instrument and play for the first time. We also celebrated our fantastic musicians during our Musical Achievement Assemblies.

## The New Green is Open



At the start of the Summer Term, Hotwells Primary children finally got the playground and sports space that they need and deserve. For the Green Working Party (four governors, one member of staff and one amazing parent) being present at the moment the children charged onto their new playground made all those months of work worth every second! Two members of Bristol Rugby's first team came to visit the new Green that afternoon, much to the excitement of the pupils. Now that we have a better sports pitch the school can forge closer relationships with our local teams and hopefully inspire a whole new generation of players and fans.

The Green Working Party are very proud of the Green project, and we could not have done it without the amazing support of the Full Governing Body, school staff, and the whole school community. We hope that having a more usable space for play and outside learning will have a positive impact on all aspects of school life, for the children and the staff.

~ Lisa Clarke



What do Hotwells' pupils think? Here are some comments about the new play and sports space:

"I like the big space and playing football on it"

"It's sooo cool I love playing adventure games on it"

"I like doing more PE on the green"

"It's awesome"

"I love having a green green rather than a brown green!"

~ Voxpop conducted by Lola and Eva  
(Former Year 6 pupils).

## PTA Update – What a Fantastic Year!

We set ourselves a pretty high target for the last academic year so a big thank you to everyone who has helped. We aimed to raise £10,000 to contribute to the Green Fund, in addition to the £1500 we spend on annual commitments such as books and website hosting. We also funded a sports kit for teams competing against other schools and worked with Food Group to raise funds for equipment and ingredients. We had a surplus of just over £2000 from the previous year and the half marathon runners raised a fantastic £3500 leaving us with approximately £8000 to raise.



Following a survey of parents about the role of the PTA and the types of events families want us to run, we decided to try some different events over the year such as the Film Night and the Christmas Cracker, in addition to the old favourites such as the school disco. The Food Group were very active and we were lucky enough to be able to combine some fantastic events with them.

As well as raising funds, the PTA aims to build on the community spirit at Hotwells and some events aim

only to do that rather than raise money – the film night was a great example when lots of families came along to enjoy 'Matilda' together.

Our biggest fundraisers last year were the Tapas night, run together with the Food Group, the awesome bounceathon, the Christmas Cracker and the School Disco. Also congratulates to the hardy souls who completed the triathlon!

We have some great ideas for this coming year so look out for Family Rounders, an open-top bus tour and a cookery book!

Thank you to everybody who has helped by donating their time, money, prizes or support in so many ways. We couldn't do it without you.

If you would like to give us any feedback, like to become involved in any way or want to find out more please come along to PTA meetings held once a term, send us an email to [Hotwellspta@gmail.com](mailto:Hotwellspta@gmail.com) or find us on our Facebook page.

~ The PTA committee

## New Parent Governor Appointment – Chris Adams

I'm delighted to announce that Chris Adams has been appointed as a new Parent Governor. Chris has taken up one of two Parent Governor vacancies.

Chris, who is father to Rachael in Year 5 and Ben in Year 3, teaches Chemistry at Bristol University and is also responsible for running a number of web-based teaching resources at the University, experience which we think will prove invaluable as a Governor at Hotwells!

I would also like to highlight that there is still one Parent Governor vacancy yet to fill so please contact me either on my mobile 07775 997 409 or via email to [eddie@iconcorpfin.co.uk](mailto:eddie@iconcorpfin.co.uk) if you would like to be considered for the role.

~ Eddie Harding (Chair of Governors)

**Hotwells Primary School**  
**Academy Governing Body 2015/16**  
**(Updated September 2015)**

Name	Title	Responsibilities
Catherine Delor	Headteacher	Principal, Accounting Officer
Eddie Harding	Governor	Chair of Governors
Claudia McConnell	Governor	DIG
Chris Adams	Parent Governor	
Lisa Clarke	Parent Governor	Vice-Chair, Health & S, Green W Party
Laura Hifle	Parent Governor	Extended Schools, Green W Pty, Eco
Jon Little	Parent Governor	Child Protection, Children in Care
Rob Logan	Governor	Chair of Finance & Resources
Elizabeth Vance	Governor	SEN
Moyna Wilkinson	Governor	Pupil Premium
Matt Edwards	Staff Governor	
Estelle Talfan Davies	Staff Governor	
Paula Parker	Clerk & Company Secretary	



**Hotwells Primary School:**  
**Learning to bring out the best in everyone'**