

Governors' Newsletter



July 2018

Thank you for taking the time to read the Governing Body's newsletter. We hope that it will give you an overview of the work we have done this academic year. Thank you also for the continued support that you have provided to the school this year. We wish our Year 6 children and parents well as they move on to their new schools, and hope that everybody has a very relaxing and enjoyable summer holiday.

Our work

As you are aware, we are continuing our search for the right Headteacher for Templewood. This work will continue over the summer. We will be holding an open day in school for prospective candidates early in the new term, and interviews are scheduled for late September. We will of course let you know the outcome of this recruitment round once it is complete. Whilst we have been without a permanent Headteacher, Mrs Hollingsworth has had a significant positive impact on the teaching and learning at Templewood; she leaves with our thanks and best wishes, and we look forward to welcoming Mrs Abley as our interim Headteacher in the autumn term.

Throughout the year, governors have continued to hold the Senior Leadership Team to account, by asking questions to ensure the best decisions are being made for the school and its children. We are very proud of the results the children have achieved in their assessments this year, and the progress they have made. We are also very proud to be part of a school community where children say they feel safe, that they enjoy coming to, and which offers them rich learning experiences such as producing shows (Olivia! was fantastic) and participating in forest school sessions. We are grateful to all the teachers and staff for the effort that has been put in to help the children progress and to deliver these experiences.

You will be aware of the significant amount of work that has taken place, going back a number of years, in relation to planning applications with a view to improving the school building. Over the summer half term, governors met with representatives from Herts County Council (which is responsible for the school building), a planning officer from Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council and its nominated conservation officer. We discussed the installation of a new boiler and heating system, and the changes to the building that can and cannot be made. A number of actions were identified as a result of this meeting and are being carried out by Herts County Council or its contractor, prior to a planning application being submitted. We also took the opportunity at this meeting to talk about the windows, doors, fire alarm and soffits at the school. As a result, the school is submitting new bids for

refurbishment of the windows and the doors, a new fire alarm system and replacement soffits.

Together with the Senior Leadership Team, the governors have identified priority spending areas for the coming years. Having spent a lot of time focussing on the outdoor environment, our main area of focus is now interior decor. We want to improve the look and the feel of the inside of the building so that it is well presented and welcoming. Painting will take place in the Year 6 classroom over the holidays, with the rest of the KS2 classrooms decorated in due course (KS1 was painted last year). The Reception classroom will be re-organised to improve the learning environment. Governors have also agreed a plan to refurbishment of the toilets in the school on a rolling basis.

Finally, governors are hoping to make it easier for parents to raise general concerns and make suggestions to the school, and to provide staff with another means by which they can communicate with parents, with the establishment of a parent forum. The school will be considering how best to implement this in the autumn term.

Parent Survey 2018

As governors we look at what the school does well and identify areas where it can improve. An important part of that process is for us to hear the views of parents. We would therefore be grateful if you could spare five minutes to complete the [Parent Survey](#) before 3rd August.

Changes to our team

Our thanks go to Maeve Buraglio who stepped down as a vice chair and governor in the spring term and to Mark Thomas who is stepping down as a governor at the end of the summer term. Both Maeve and Mark have generously donated their time as governors for over ten years, with Mark serving the last four years as co-chair. Gary Bryan has also served as a staff governor for the year and we thank him for his work; he will be moving to his new school and a new staff governor will be elected in the new academic year.

We have also recruited some new governors this year, and are pleased to welcome Barbara Gibson and Hollie Napier, who are members of the local community, and Michael Wood, a parent to a child currently in Year 1, and Mrs Howes, deputy head, to the Governing Body. We are also speaking to other members of the school community and hope that they will join us shortly. These governors are all co-opted for a four year term, as they have been identified as having the skills the governing body needs.

We also have a vacancy for a parent governor. An election for this position will be held early in the academic year. If you are interested in the role, please contact Helen Anthony at chairofgovernors@templewood.herts.sch.uk

Contact us

The governors are happy to talk to parents or others in the school community about our work, although any questions or concerns about the day to day running of the school must be directed to the appropriate member of staff.

If you need to get in contact with us, please leave a message at the school office (in person, on the phone, or by e-mail).