

Harvey Road Primary School – Autumn 2017



Be Happy - Show Respect - Seek Success

Dear Parents, Carers and Pupils,

Welcome to our Autumn 2017 Governor Newsletter. In this edition, we're focusing on school funding, academisation and having a look at our 2017-2018 projects.

Governing Body

New Chair of Governors Elected

After several successful years of leading the HRS governing body, Rev Miriam Mughan has stepped down as the Chair of Governors as of the beginning of the Autumn term. Sheena Gormley, parent governor, has been elected by the Governing Body to be the new Chair of Governors.

The Governing Body thanks Rev Mughan for her hard work and dedication during her tenure, and we're pleased she has agreed to remain on the governing body in her role as co-opted governor.

Congratulations to Mrs Gormley on her new role as Chair; a governor profile on our new Chair will be published in the next edition.

School Funding Review

School funding has been an important topic for governors over the last few years, with consultations beginning to be held with the school community at the end of the last academic year.

Thanks to all those who have shared ideas and views, and to those who made the meeting back in September.

Who are the Governors?

Parent governors

Jan Cameron (Vice Chair)
Tony Price
Sheena Gormley (Chair)

Co-opted governors

Ruth Precey
Rev Miriam Mughan
Tom Farrar
Richard Doughty
Rupinder Ahluwalia
Nalisha Fernandes

Staff governors

Nick Rowlands (Head)
Clair Tustin (Deputy Head)

Clerk

Paul Treadwell

How to contact us?

You can contact governors by writing or emailing us via the school office.

Any specific issues should first be raised with the class teacher or the Headteacher, as appropriate.

The HRS complaints procedure is available from the school office.

We'll continue to communicate progress in this area throughout the year, and we're always open to additional thoughts and ideas. An update on progress will be published shortly.

Governors would also like to thank the School Business Manager, Headteacher and the wider school team for their effective management of the school budget. Although the financial road ahead is a concern, we're in a strong position because of their hard work.

Academisation

A key area of consideration last academic year for governors was academisation. This is where maintained community schools, such as Harvey Road School, could become a schools which is independent of the local authority, often forming part of a wider trust and/or chain.

The governing body have decided that, given the current information available, we do not intend on becoming an academy. However, we are aware that the academy landscape can change very quickly and for this reason the governing body will ensure we stay on-top of developments, with academisation remaining a standing agenda item for 2017/2018. Any updates on this will be shared with the school community.

Projects

Some of the projects the governing body will be part of this academic year include:

- Reviewing the School Vision statement
- Working with the School Council and Eco Battlers to develop the Courtyard area
- Investigating sustainable ways to improve our use of the school library
- Creating a new Governor skills matrix to better identify and address areas of development for the Governing Body.

Training

For 2017-2018 all governors will be undertaking two training sessions targeting specific areas of governance. Individual governors will also be undertaking additional training, as identified, to further strengthen the whole governing body's capabilities.

2016/2017 Outcomes

HRS had another very successful year, with:

- Key Stage 1 again improving, with results in all areas of the curriculum above the national and local average.
- Key Stage 2 results in the top 10% nationally for children achieving or exceeding age-related expectations.
- Early Years Foundation improvements across all areas.

The governing body continues to look at areas to develop in order to maintain our high expectations, which this year will focus on:

- Increasing the number of children who are exceeding age-related expectations by the end of Early Years.
- Raising the progress of all children at HRS

The governing body would like to congratulate all our pupils and staff for their achievements during what has been another fantastic year for HRS.

Governor Profile – Rupinder Ahluwalia



How long have you been a governor of HRS?

Two years

Why did you become a governor?

I became a governor at Harvey Road School because I liked the aspect of 'community' in the school. To me it is important that a school works for the community but equally that the community takes as much part as it usefully can in the success of the school. Therefore, I felt that School Governance was the best way that I could play a useful role in a community.

Also, my job as a secondary school teacher keeps me very busy and much of my spare time is spent with family. So, I still wanted to be involved in the community in some way and being a co-opted governor allows me to do that.

What are the best and worst things about what you do as a governor?

The best thing about being governor is that I do feel that it gives me the chance to be and feel a part of the local community. There are no truly bad things about being a governor except, perhaps, some of the meetings finish pretty late in the evening!

What is your favourite story book?

My favourite Story book is the Paper Bag Princess by Robert Munsch.

It's a story written by a Canadian author about a brave, clever and resilient young woman who goes on an adventure.

What is your favourite film?

My favourite film is Pitch Perfect - it's the perfect combination of acting and comedy. I have seen Pitch Perfect 1 and 2 and can't wait to see the third one soon!

What's your best advice?

Not matter how old you are, always keep learning. It will help you grow as a person and let you look at the world with fresh eyes.

What is your favourite season and why?

My favourite season is Autumn. I love the colours, the sound of leaves on the ground and how everything changes as it gets ready for winter.