

# Harvey Road Primary School



**Be Happy - Show Respect - Seek Success**

Dear Parents, Carers and Pupils,

Welcome to our 2018 Governor Newsletter. In this edition, we're focusing on parent/carers questionnaire feedback, GDPR and giving an update on funding/academisation.

HRS Governing Body

## **Parent/Carer Questionnaire Feedback**

Governors would like to thank all parents/carers who provided feedback via the questionnaire shared earlier this year.

Questionnaire feedback is extremely important to the governing body, allowing us to understand what HRS is doing well and what areas can be further improved. It is also an important part of judging the effectiveness of the school vision and setting the future strategy of the school.

However, governors have noticed a decline in the numbers of questionnaires being returned over the last 4 years. To help address this decline in returns we will now be handling out questionnaires during parent consultations. Further to this we'd also welcome any suggestions from the school community on how we can improve the number of questionnaires being returned. Please send any suggestions via the school office.

## **Who are the Governors?**

### **Parent governors**

Jan Cameron (Vice Chair)  
Emma Campbell  
Sheena Gormley (Chair)

### **Co-opted governors**

Ruth Precey  
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.

## School Funding Review & Academisation Update

The governing body is continuing to review the important area of school funding. Recently the school has received an increased number of voluntary donations from parents and so we have decided to set up a registered charity to manage such donations.

In the past year we have spoken with parents about the possibility of requesting regular voluntary contributions, however due to the careful financial systems that we have in place the school continues to be financially stable. For this reason, we will not be asking for parental donations in 2018. More communication regarding this will be shared in the near future.

Academisation remains a standing agenda item for the governing body, with agreement on several events that would trigger further action. These events relate to the school's financial situation and any relevant local changes. We would like to reassure you that there are currently no plans for Harvey Road School to convert to an academy school.

## GDPR

For a number of months HRS has been undertaking changes throughout the school to put us in the best position for the fast approaching GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) deadline. These changes range from improving processes, providing additional training to staff and strengthening our culture of awareness when it comes to data protection.

As part of these changes we have recruited a data protection officer (DPO), Paul Wiseman. Mr Wiseman is responsible for overseeing data protection matters at HRS, reporting regularly to the Headteacher and governing body.

The data protection officer can be reached at [dpo@harveyroad.herts.sch.uk](mailto:dpo@harveyroad.herts.sch.uk).

## 30 hours free childcare

We're pleased to announce that from September 2018 we'll be offering a full school day to all nursery children, in line with the new 30 hours free childcare scheme. We hope this will allow greater flexibility for nursery parents/carers and allow easier access to our before and after school provisions (early birds and the afterschool club).

## Help to prevent crime at Harvey Road

HRS has recently had a number of incidents where people have accessed the school grounds out of hours and, in some cases, caused damaged to school property.

We would like to ask the members of the school community, especially those who neighbour the school, to report any unusual out of hours activity to the Police on the non-emergency number (101).

School vandalism is a national problem, with schools often having to repair damage using already stretched school funds. With the help of the school community we hope to minimise the risk to the HRS budget.

## **Governor changes**

At the end of the 2017, parent governor Tony Price stood down from the governing body – we would like to thank Tony for his hard work at HRS, particularly his role on the finance committee. We warmly welcome Emma Campbell as new parent governor.

Rev Miriam Mugan has also recently stepped down from the governing body after many successful years, several as the Chair. The governing body again thanks Rev Muga for her dedication and leadership during this time.

## **Governor Profile – Sheena Gormley**

### ***How long have you been a governor of HRS?***

I first became a governor at Harvey Road in 2008 when my eldest son was in reception. I had a break from 2015 to 2017, and then came back, so in total about 8 years.

### ***Why did you become a governor?***

I wanted to be able to support the school, like every parent does, but I am not very good at baking cakes, fundraising and organising events, and I think I would be a terrible class rep! I am good at things like developing strategic plans, managing budgets and resources and running public services. I'm also pretty passionate about giving our young people every opportunity to be the best they can be.

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

The best is definitely being able to give something back to the school, the worst is trying to stop our governor meetings from over running!

### ***What is your favourite story book?***

I don't really have one favourite book, but I loved The Martian by Andy Weir, The Handmaidens Tale by Margaret Atwood, and Q and A by Vikas Swarup.

### ***What is your favourite film?***

Top Gun, or maybe an Officer and a Gentleman!

### ***What's your best piece of advice?***

Always have an open mind – otherwise nothing new can get in.

### ***What is your favourite season and why?***

Summer – I love sunshine and hate being cold!