

Kirk Hammerton & Staveley Primary Schools Governors' Newsletter, Autumn 2016

Welcome to the Autumn edition of the Governors' Newsletter.

So far it has been a very busy term, with both schools welcoming Mrs Mellor to the role of Executive Headteacher and completing the Federation process.

At the first meeting of the new Full Governing Body (FGB), I was appointed Chair of Governors for the Federation, and Mark Holt was appointed Vice Chair. At the Teaching & Learning Committee on 15th November, Joanne Lamb was appointed Chair. The Chair of the Resources Committee is still to be decided. A big thank you to the Governors who have stepped down this year - Sue Lawrie and Claire Forster from Kirk Hammerton, and Alan Wray, Vicky Hogg, Natasha Astill and Fiona Roberts from Staveley.

It was agreed at the first FGB meeting that we would meet once a term as a Full Board, but more regularly for the sub-committees and other monitoring activities that Governors get involved in.

School Council

I attended the open mornings for both schools and was very impressed with the school councils. The children were working in pairs showing prospective and current parents around the schools. The children were all very enthusiastic about it and seemed to enjoy telling everyone about their schools.

Governor Vacancies

The Governing Body are currently undergoing a skills audit to identify any gaps we have in skills, knowledge and expertise. Once these gaps have been identified we will be seeking volunteers in the local and wider community, to see if we can fill these vacancies. We will keep you informed of our progress.

School Development Plan

Mrs Mellor has been busy working on this document to ensure we have a clear vision of areas we need to address. It was agreed that as we are now federated and have similar priorities, we would have a joint School Development Plan.

Mrs Mellor has also been working with the staff team and we now have dedicated subject leaders who will work across both schools, not just for Numeracy and Literacy, but for all subjects. Staff will now be provided with guidance and support by the subject leaders who will ensure that each subject area is taught in a consistent manor and all aspects of the curriculum are covered.

Ofsted

Following the Ofsted inspection at Kirk Hammerton in the summer term, the school has:

- Re-written the school development plan that focuses on how actions to improve on will be measured.
- Gained external support via the North Star Teaching Alliance that supports teachers and leaders.
- Revised the 'Presentation' and 'Marking and Feedback' policies to ensure all children are presenting their work neatly and that children understand what is expected of them when their work is marked.
- Developed a monitoring timetable for leaders, including Governors, to ensure monitoring is not only effective but also timely.
- Democratically appointed a school council and plans are in place for the school council from a school in Leeds to visit in the new year to give advice on schools councils.
- Strengthened the leadership team with the appointment of Mrs Appleton as Assistant Headteacher. In addition to her new role, Mrs Appleton will use her strengths in literacy to lead and drive improvements across both schools.
- Introduced a tracking system for pupil progress to ensure that all children are progressing as they should or highlight where appropriate targeted support is required.

Even though these issues were raised in the Kirk Hammerton Ofsted inspection, the work is being developed and implemented across both schools.

If you need to contact me for anything relating to the Governing Body, please email me on: cofg@kirkhammerton.n-yorks.sch.uk

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New year,

Leanne Eaton

Chair of Governors