

Governors Newsletter

Autumn 2016

Thursday 20th October 2016

Hendal Primary School

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Hello from our Governors

Welcome to this our fourth newsletter from your governors. In this we will update you on our discussions at our latest governor meetings.

Recent Discussion at Governors meetings

The most important item we discussed at our last meeting was to note the imminent **retirement** of our wonderful Head teacher Mrs Platts. Mrs Platts has been a teacher for over 30 years and has led Hendal to great success over recent years. We will miss her. There will be more opportunities to acknowledge and thank Mrs Platts for her dedicated service to the school and the wider education community but, "life goes on" and so the governors will shortly be starting a recruitment process for a new head teacher to take over the leadership of the school. Mrs Ashton returns to school after Christmas and she will take on the role of Acting Head teacher until we are in a position to confirm a permanent appointment. Mr Benson will continue as Acting Deputy Headteacher.

We also spent some time discussing the outcome of last years SAT **results**. This was the first year of testing under the new curriculum and like all schools we found the process somewhat challenging. Performance of the school in the early years was very good but less so at key stage 2. Here we were marginally below where we expected. Frustratingly this was often because a few children had narrowly missed the required levels by a single mark.

The management team are carefully considering the results and reviewing what else they can do in future to improve our performance. These actions will feature in the school improvement plan to be presented to the next governors meeting.

We also discussed an increase in **unauthorised absence** largely due to the thorny issue of holidays. Governors are acutely aware of the ridiculously high costs of holidays in non-term time but would ask all parents to consider the impact unauthorised absence has on their children's education. In addition it has an effect on teaching staff that may have covered an important topic only then to have to redirect efforts to help children catch up who have been away. Please do all you can to limit unauthorised absences.

Conclusion

Appointing a new Head teacher is one of the biggest changes a school has to make. We are in a good position with some exceptionally talented and dedicated staff. A new Head teacher will be able to build on a terrific platform to take Hendal onto an even better future.

Finally, as always, if you have any observations or comments about Hendal School, please do not hesitate to speak to any of the governors or write to me as Chair of Governors at the school.

Kind regards

Terry Carter Chair of Governors

[Hendal is a great school and I am proud to be Chair of Governors.](#)

[Working together we can make it even better.](#)