
Chair's introduction and Update

Welcome to the first edition of the Governors Newsletter! This newsletter will let us keep you up to date on the progress we are making at Hormead and provide insight into the role of a School Governor.

A busy start to 2019

It has been a very busy time for the school this year, and an interesting beginning to my time as Chair of Governors!

Almost immediately after our return from the Christmas break we were told we would be going through a 1 day Ofsted inspection. The team, ably guided by Mrs Moore and Mrs Myers, remained calm, professional and unflappable. The Inspector was extremely complimentary in his assessment of the work that they put in and this was reflected in our report, and our maintenance of "Good". Let's not forget our children though, and how well they came across on the day too:

"Pupils speak knowledgeably about the school values of respect, kindness, cooperation, peace, honesty, aspire and love. These values underpin the curriculum and are exemplified by the behaviour of all who work and learn within the school. Typically, pupils thoroughly enjoy coming to school. They demonstrate good attitudes to learning and try hard in lessons. Pupils behave very well and are polite and courteous to each other and adults."

(OFSTED report January 2019)

Lots of other things have been going on and the rest of the Board have given some updates below.

I'd like to thank the Friends of Hormead School who have agreed to donate some funds towards the Science week next term. The committee works hard to come up with ideas to raise money for the school and we'd like to thank them for their efforts and ask that you support them by attending up and coming events or donating your time to running them. It takes a lot of work behind the scenes!

Best wishes,

Anna

Recruitment Panel (Revd Sawyer, Doug Brown,

We are very happy to announce the appointment of Mrs Lynda Cowler as our new Head Teacher. Mrs Cowler joins us from Tewin Cowper Primary school where she has worked since 2009 as Deputy Head.



Hormead C of E First School
NEWSLETTER



David Gaine & Anna Inman. Supported by Rosemary Woodall (Diocese) and Anne Gorolini (HfL)

Mrs Cowler said: ***“Thank you for giving me the opportunity to take on the position of Headteacher at your amazing school. I have thoroughly enjoyed my visits to Hormead and each time have been welcomed by smiling little faces from Children that are clearly very proud of their school. The Governors and Teaching team have shown me their commitment to the school. I am really looking forward to working with them on our journey to provide an outstanding learning community. One where children thrive and flourish socially, morally, academically and spiritually. I hope I will get to meet many of you on my future visits and get to know your wishes for the school too.”***

Please join us in welcoming Mrs Cowler to our school.

We’d like to thank Rosemary Woodall and Anne Gorolini for their unerring support throughout the three rounds of interviews we conducted over the past five months.

Revd James Sawyer

Easter at Hormead

Over the Spring term the school prepared for Easter and then celebrated in style when we returned from the Easter Holidays with a wonderful service at St Nicholas. Thank you to all families and carers who managed to attend.

Miss Taylor has had the opportunity to take the lead for developing the RE curriculum, attending an excellent training course run by the Diocese that seeks to integrate our Religious Education (RE) into the wider aims of the curriculum. With myself providing Governor support, the programme seeks to build on some core faith concepts and then expand on them as our children grow older to give them a deeper understanding of faith and Christianity in particular and how those relate to our school values.

In the run-up to Easter we looked at Jesus journey to Jerusalem and the symbols of the last supper and Jesus arrest in the garden of Gethsemane. After the holidays we took the story on from Good Friday through to Easter day. We had a whole RE day with art and creative writing among the activities leading up to our service in the church. The children carried a large cross up to St Nicholas commemorating Good Friday. The service was child-led and each class contributed some beautifully sung songs, poetry and prayers. I took the flame from the Easter Candle and symbolically shared it with Mrs Myers and Mrs Moore on behalf of the whole school as a sign of the love of God extending to this community.

For the rest of this term we will be learning and reflecting on what happened after Jesus was seen to be alive again and the gift of the Holy Spirit. And after half term we will look at the conversion of St Paul and his missionary journey.

Finance and Resources Committee
(David Gaine, Michael Johnson & Anna Inman)

We are pleased to announce we were successful in applying for an LCVAP grant from the Diocese. This money will be used to make some improvements to the school building, with the work taking place over the Summer Term. The project planning process is underway and when we have more to tell you we will be back with an update.

Have you taken a look at the Golden Garden recently, the school has worked hard to get this area made safe and a lot more beautiful we think you’ll agree. It will provide the pupils with



another lovely outdoor area for learning.

During the most recent finance committee meeting we reviewed the schools closing budget and approving the budget for the next year. We are in a healthy position which, given the pressures placed on schools by the reduction in funding coming from central government, we recognize the need to monitor spending on an ongoing basis.

There are some other exciting projects that have been budgeted for such as a much-needed ICT upgrade.

School Places and Appeals

As Governors we recognise that gaining the place you want for your child at their next school can be stressful and sometimes lead to disappointment. With Hormead First School becoming increasingly popular, it was inevitable that we would become over-subscribed. Places are allocated by Hertfordshire County Council according to their admissions criteria. Which is why for a number of years our admissions policy has had to make it clear that places are not guaranteed.

Because we are a small community, no appeals are handled by the school but are managed independently by Hertfordshire County Council. Details of the process are clearly published on our website and links have been provided in offers letters sent out recently by the Council. As Governors, we are obviously concerned for the wellbeing of all our pupils but we regret that we cannot be involved in the appeals process. If you find yourself in an appeal situation, we encourage you to act promptly and follow the procedures published by the County.

Safety in the playground

Before and after school, the play equipment and climbing frames are only able to be used if children are properly supervised by their parents. We do not want to have to rope-off the equipment, so please only allow your child on the equipment if you are going to stand adjacent to it and watch them.

Meeting the Governors

As Governors we make frequent visits to the school and are often available at the end of the school day to meet parents if you'd like to discuss an idea or an issue. If we are not around, please ask for an appointment at the office. We also welcome interest in joining the Governing Board.

If you'd like to read more about what we do then please visit
<http://www.hormead.herts.sch.uk/website/governors/206777>

Where our roles and responsibilities are listed as well as a list of who is who. We will shortly be posting pictures of our members in the school entrance.

