



GOVERNORS' UPDATE

Spring 2023

Dear Holy Trinity community

As we reach the mid-point of the academic year, here is a brief update from the school governors about some of the happenings so far this year.

On children's learning

We re-wrote our **curriculum statement** in the autumn – this is a short summary of what we set out to teach our pupils and why. Within the framework of our core values, it explains the rationale behind what we try to instil in our children in the classroom and beyond. From there we go through each subject, outlining the themes and the progression of skills that children learn from Nursery to Year 6, presenting an overview of their primary years' education.

You can read the statement on our much-improved website on the page marked Curriculum. Grateful thanks to Rachael Macklearn, our acting deputy for bringing our curriculum to life and to Chloe Newman, our marketing officer, for making it look so attractive.

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We announced last term our excellent **KS2 SATS** results from the Summer and how proud we were of these achievements. Again, these tables can be found on the website but do mention in passing to your friends or neighbours, that we out-performed the Richmond borough average on every measure – Reading, Writing, Maths, Science and Spelling, Grammar & Punctuation!

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As our last Ofsted report was in 2015 and the inspection framework has massively changed, it is vital to receive external monitoring and validation of the quality our teaching. This is one of the services provided by our local authority through the provision of a School Improvement Partner, who visits termly, and we can also request additional advice from subject specialists at AfC.

This year we have benefitted from a learning walk by the **Early Years** (EYFS) adviser around the Nursery and Reception classes. Among her observations was that "developing a love of reading is evident in the classrooms", "children's acquisition of language and its use in communication is a high priority" and "the leadership of the EYFS is very effective." She concluded that our early years provision would still be evaluated as '**outstanding**' under the new Ofsted criteria.

Subject leaders have also benefitted from visits from the SEND and English advisers at AfC both of which have been very positive and supportive of new initiatives for improving outcomes.

Overall, however, based on our latest self-evaluation using the Ofsted criteria, we judge our school to be 'good' in areas other than EYFS. Our School Improvement Partner has highlighted some very strong elements of practice also within the behaviour and attitudes criteria, as well as personal development of pupils.

Governors were delighted with the Early Years report and external endorsement that our school strives to achieve the very best for its pupils.

On financial management

The rising cost of living, school funding cuts and teachers' pay continue to grab the headlines. These all have a huge impact on our **school budget**. Thankfully, governors made provision for many of the rising costs, and with the benefit of financial reserves resulting from careful spending in previous years, this means that HT's budget continues to be in the **black**. Cost savings continue to be made wherever possible, in areas like more efficient energy usage, that do not to impact our pupils' learning.

That said, we await the outcome of talks between the unions and the Department for Education as any further raises agreed in teachers' and support staff's pay will need to be funded out of schools' budgets.

Parents will be aware that Year 3 and 4 classes were closed last week owing to **strike action** by NEU members. This decision was not taken lightly by the teachers involved who remain committed and focussed on supporting our pupils to learn and grow. Further strikes are proposed in March and parents will be kept informed about any impact on their classes.

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We continue to be grateful to the families that support our **Kingfisher Fund**, the voluntary donation scheme. While the fund does not go towards staff salaries, it helps to pay for some of the extras on the curriculum like author visits, as well as the basics, like pencils and paper. If you are interested in either making a one-off donation or a regular monthly payment to school, the bank details are below. All contributions are confidential, but we ask you to state your child or children's surname as a reference should we need to contact you.

Account name: Kingfisher Fund
Account number: 63531925
Sort Code: 60-22-03

On staffing

So far this year there have been a few new faces on the block. In September, we were joined by Sophie Brunt and Claire Jobbins, as Maths/LKS2 lead and English/KS1 lead respectively and who are part of the **Senior Leadership Team**. Hayley Merrett is the part-time Year 1 teacher and Louisa Allard is part-time in Year 6.

In January, we welcomed Helen Lünow and Hannah Kelly as part-time Year 1 and Year 2 teachers also.

All our new teachers come with considerable experience from other schools and are fitting in very well at HT.

On governors

In December, we welcomed Eils Osgood to the governing body as a co-opted governor. Eils is the associate vicar at our link church, Holy Trinity and also a Reception parent. More recently, Chris Milsom, a year 2 parent and barrister specialising in employment and discrimination law, often in the education sector; he was elected as a parent governor, using an electronic voting process for the first time that proved very successful with 50% more parents voting than in previous elections.

After nearly 5 years as Chair of Governors, I shall be stepping down at the end of the Summer term to make way for new blood and new ideas. I was Vice Chair for 4 years before this and have had the joy and privilege to be a governor at Holy Trinity since 2011.

On behalf of all the governors at Holy Trinity, we wish all our parents, staff and families a restful half term break.

Michèle Marcus
Chair of Governors