



Temple Grafton Church of England Primary School

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Mrs S. Hendry
Head Teacher



Dear Parents/ Guardians,

Well, it's hard to believe but we are at the start of another school year. First of all, we would like to welcome you all back after the summer holidays and, in particular, we would like to welcome all the new parents and children to the TG community. We thought that it would be a good opportunity to give you an update from your Governing Body and to let you know that we have all been working very hard behind the scenes.

New Members on the Governing Body

We have spent a lot of time trying to recruit specific skills on to the governing body which strengthens our strategic direction and future plans. We are pleased to welcome Peter Jackson as parent governor. Peter brings Financial skills to the group and he has taken on the role of Health & Safety Governor. We also welcomed Martyn Vitty as our Foundation Governor. Martyn provides a strengthened link with the village and the parish community and he is a Financial Director with wide business experience and corporate knowledge. Finally, we also welcomed Cathy Barron in a co-opted role. Cathy brings with her a wealth of corporate finance experience and change management skills and is ideally set as the new chair of Governors from this September. We feel that we have a strong governing body but we can always be stronger! Governors will be reviewing the skills set in September and recruiting for any perceived gaps. If you, or anyone you know, within the community would be interested in joining us, please do get them to get in touch. Finally, we would like to thank our outgoing chair of Governors, Helen Wood, who has provided excellent leadership to the Governing Team. Helen will be continuing on the Governing body where her educational experience and expertise will be highly valued.

Subject Leaders

Governors now have a specific subject areas to monitor. We work alongside the teacher who is the subject leader for the specified subject. This is in its infancy, but the aim is to provide a united focus on issues such as areas to improve and continuous improvement on what is working well. This will then develop a more sustainable long term vision of improvement. We are already working with our neighbouring schools to share good practice and this will help drive standards.

**If you, your child or any member of your family have difficulty in accessing the school and/or the school's facilities and services,

please contact the School Office for assistance.**

TG Profile

Governors have been actively involved with raising the profile of our school. This has included the production & distribution of a colour flyer to Estate Agents and local housing developments and also in assisting with raising the profile of our school website.

We are pleased to see a significant rise in pupil numbers for September 2016.

Governor Monitoring

We have been into school in the spring term to evaluate how we were progressing against our Learning Improvement Plan. We wanted to look at how the school was driving the agreed plan of improvement.

We found :

- Positive outcomes in writing across the school.
- Through pupil & staff interviews we could see effective use of new resources invested in during the last year to meet the spelling, punctuation and grammar element of literacy.
- The government has changed the way in which pupils are assessed. Mrs Hendry spent time with governors explaining the new system that the school is implementing. This is crucial for us to monitor our pupil's progress and achievement effectively.
- Early years focus. Monitoring in this area assisted us in decisions made for the planned outdoor improvement project.
- In May, we came into school for Governor Week and visited classrooms, and outdoor learning for further monitoring and observations.

Writing Focus

As part of the school's Learning Improvement Plan, a key focus is pupil's writing. We had a fabulous 'author in school project' which certainly created many examples of fantastic, descriptive and creative writing. Governors and parents were invited in to witness the children working with Philip Aardagh, a successful published author. The work that the children produced was exceptional and the enthusiasm displayed by all was infectious. The week included work with The Escape Arts Group, based in Stratford. The group guided the pupils in creating 3D models of the characters that they had created in writing.

Improvements to Outdoor Spaces

We have made plans for a brighter and more appropriate use of space in the Reception classroom. These will come to fruition, hopefully in the coming months with the help of an approved Grant application. We are also tackling our condemned climbing frame area. This is actually a difficult task on lots of levels, not least because of a very large and very old tree directly above it! But rest assured – changes will happen over the coming weeks. In the longer term, we hope to increase our space for sport in this area.

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What's Next?

Communication is key and we thank you for the responses you gave to us with our communications survey. The responses were very positive about the amount and quality of information available to you. We would urge you to use the Website as a central hub of information. There was not an overwhelming desire for Facebook or Twitter. Indeed the amount of opposition and questions arising in the operation of these, we have decided not to pursue this line of communication.

We do encourage you to come into school and talk to your teachers & Mrs Hendry about your child's experiences, good or maybe bad - we need to know what you think we're doing well and discuss any ways that we can help.

This month, we'll be reviewing our ICT. Unbelievably, it is coming up to 3 years since our last investment so we'll be looking at what needs updating or replacing.

Thanks & Gratitude

At this point we would really like to thank our PTA who tirelessly fund raise for all the extras, without which our children wouldn't have access to the opportunities and fantastic experiences we are able to provide for them. Year on year, we rely heavily on this support.

Our thanks go to you as parents in assisting us in our very difficult parking areas – this has and always will be a challenge to the community. However your support in careful and considerate parking goes a long way in helping the community with this issue.

Most of all, we are especially grateful and proud of all our teaching and support staff whose hard work, dedication and commitment enable the children of Temple Grafton School to learn and grow not only academically but also in sport, drama, music and learning how to care about each other and their environment.

Finally, the Governing Body wish our Year 6 Leavers every success in their new schools and the adventures that lay ahead.

We hope that everybody enjoys a happy, safe and successful new academic year.

From all of the Governors.

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