



# Highwood Primary School

Mead Way, Bushey, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD23 2AW

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Promoting Resilience, Achieving Potential

Cathy Cox – Head Teacher

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Monday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018

## Governors' Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to a new academic year at Highwood Primary School.

Your children have all settled well in to their new classes and have recently had a wonderful two weeks learning all about the children's author Oliver Jeffers. Last week's assembly showcased a tremendous amount of cross curricular learning across all key stages.

This September, Highwood has welcomed 7 new staff members who have already built strong relationships with your children so thank you to them all. The newly strengthened Leadership Team including our new Deputy Head Teacher (Mrs Mandy Adcock), and our 2 new Assistant Head Teachers (Mrs Danni Harte and Miss Michelle Green) means we are well placed to develop all areas of the curriculum and we look forward to some exciting times ahead.

There has also been change of leadership within the Governing Body itself. We said goodbye to Mrs. Rita Mitchell who has served as Chair of Governors for the past 3 years. Mrs Mitchell has worked tirelessly, showing complete dedication and commitment. We thank her for this and wish her all the best in her retirement.

At the full governing body meeting on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> September, I was voted in as the new Chair of Governors and I am delighted to be joined by Revd. Penny who is continuing as Vice Chair and Chair of the School Development Committee. Mr Darren Freeman has taken on the role of Chair of Resources Committee.

The governors are aware that the new drop off and pick up arrangements have resulted in changes, a minority of you are questioning.

Following a directive from Hertfordshire County Council, Mrs Cox was instructed to open the drive through from Mead Way to Bushey Mill Lane on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> September. This forced a change to what was already in place and following a Health & Safety Audit (which was emailed on 21<sup>st</sup> September), the decision was made, by the Senior Leadership Team and the governors, to introduce a new system for the morning and afternoon drop off and pick up arrangements.

Having listened to feedback received in a constructive and positive manner, you will note that these plans have been adapted. The Key Stage 2 children now line up on the slope just outside their courtyard and are escorted into their classes with their teachers. The path



(within the school perimeter) between the main entrance and Key Stage 2 has been opened to all and we hope that you have found this a safer alternative for your children as opposed to walking along Mead Way. The arrangements that are now in place, including the slightly earlier time (3:15pm) for the end of school for KS1 and EY, will remain in place. We will continue to consider increased safety measures (such as railings opposite the EY gate) in order to ensure that the school site is as safe as possible.

Unfortunately, during this process, governors have been appalled at the level of abuse and aggression directed at Mrs. Cox. This is unacceptable. Everyone has a right to feel safe in their workplace. We have taken police advice and will be implementing a zero tolerance policy against aggression towards any of the staff members and governors alike. Access to the drive-through will be dependent upon drivers observing the speed limit of 5mph and respecting the road markings (double yellow lines and designated spaces). Governors reserve the right to deny access to the drive-through to any driver who does not follow these rules or who challenges a member of staff who may be reminding them of the rules. This is vital for the safety of the children of Highwood.

We are very proud to be governors of a school with such wonderful children and we recognise the need for constructive parental engagement. To that end we are working on ways to ensure parents have a positive voice within the school.

The governors are very much looking forward to seeing your children's achievements in the forthcoming year and we hope to see many of you at upcoming school events.

Yours sincerely

*Anjali Carter*

Anjali Carter  
Chair of Governors  
For and on behalf of Highwood's Governing Body