



Highwood Primary School

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Promoting Resilience, Achieving Potential

Headteacher Mrs B Rai

Governors' Summer Newsletter

20th July 2022

Well done everyone, we have made it through the year, and what a year it has been. As a new governing team, I am pleased to say we are settling in nicely to Highwood; we all have responsibilities and jobs to do to make sure your children are being educated and cared for whilst they are in school.

We visit the school on a regular basis and learn from both the teachers and the children about what is being taught and how it is done. The children absolutely love telling us what they are up to and learning on that day. We also conduct visits behind the scenes, making sure the school is a safe environment for your children. On one of my visits I found out that we recycle the rainwater for our toilets which amazed me!

A couple of new teaching methods have been introduced this year and some of us were lucky enough to sit in on the training. One example is the Phonics programme called Read Write Inc which is proving very successful already.

Highwood has installed new play equipment in the Early Years to help with children and their motor skills, balancing and other needs. This has gone down so well with the children who use it every day.

The Year 6 children have also had the privilege of producing the Puppet Show again. They make the puppets, the background boards, organise the lighting, and undertake direction of the production. Some of the governors have seen the stages of the puppets and boards and it really intrigues me how it all comes together. Well done Year 6 for this incredible and successful journey.

One of our jobs (which is an excellent job) is to decide who wins the Della Allen Awards. For those who don't know, Della Allen was our Headteacher at Highwood five years ago and was a wonderful lady. The children were always at the forefront of her life; everything she brought to the governing board was for the best interest of the children. Unfortunately, she was taken from us too soon, but one of her dearest wishes was to set up these awards in her memory. It's one of our favourite jobs, but also the hardest to be on the judging panel. All our children are remarkable in their own individual way, so choosing takes most of the day. We are all honoured to give the awards at the special assembly.

We would like to give a big shout-out to the Friends of Highwood (PTA) because if it weren't for all the time and dedication the committee gives, the children would miss out on some many fun activities. They organise all the fairs, discos, and pop-up shops as well as contribute to our children's educational needs. This is one of the most time-consuming, headache-inducing, stressful jobs that happens at any school, but without them, we wouldn't have the happy children that we do.

This brings me on to say a huge thank you to Bev Pratt who has chaired the F.o.H for a few years now and who has done a brilliant job. We still do not know how she brings it all together on the day, but she and the committee do so every time. You will be sorely missed by everyone at the school, but we totally understand it's time to step down - a massive THANK YOU from the governors of Highwood.



We would also like to thank you as parents and carers for being patient with us. It has been a year of settling the children back into a routine following the disruption of the pandemic. Your help to make this happen has been valuable.

To Mrs Rai, Mrs Khindey, the office team, the site team, the catering team, the cleaners, teachers, teaching assistants, lunchtime assistants, and after school clubs - a huge THANK YOU to you too! We value and appreciate all the challenging work you put in every day. Thank you for looking after all the children, keeping them safe, happy, and well educated. We know it's not easy for you as we are very well informed at our meetings, but as governors we want you to know we really admire your dedication.

Have a lovely summer holiday everyone and see you in the Autumn Term.

Best wishes,

Jo Johnson
Chair of Governors