



Governor Newsletter

December 2019

WELCOME

Dear Parents and Carers,

We send a warm welcome to parents who are new to our school this term and we hope that your children have enjoyed their first term at Henwick. To all returning parents, welcome back! It has been a very busy term and we hope that you have all enjoyed the various festive celebrations that have taken place.

As some of you may be aware, the Headteacher is currently off sick. I am sure you will join us in sending her our best wishes during this festive season for a speedy recovery. Our thanks go to Ms Fowle and Ms Lotriet who have stepped up during this period. We will keep you informed as appropriate during the New Year.

MEET THE GOVERNORS

We thought it would be helpful for parents to hear a bit about our Governing Body and the plans that we have for the school for the year ahead. We have recently re-elected Matt Hurst and Jemma Tagg as the co-Chairs and have nominated individual governors to take responsibility for Safeguarding, SEND, Looked After Children, Premises and Health & Safety, Attendance and Pupil Premium Impact.

Our governance is achieved through the termly meetings of the Full Governing Body, but also through the activities of our two committees, Standards and Curriculum (chair, Nancy Hall) monitoring teaching and learning standards and Business & Resources (chair, Marion Cameron) focusing on the budget, personnel, and facilities for the school.

We ask all governors to undertake a skills audit every year to ensure that we identify any areas where we need to provide training or find additional resource and we are fortunate that we have had the stability of a full board of governors for the last couple of years.

Our School Development Plan for this year has a number of priorities including a focus on reviewing our curriculum to stimulate learning rich in opportunities and dialogue acquisition, further improving attendance levels, creating revenue from school run provisions, and improving support for staff from a wellbeing and professional development perspective.

ACHIEVEMENTS & PLANS

We are very proud of the fantastic outcome following the inspection by Ofsted earlier this year. The inspector recognised that standards continue to improve, and we were pleased to see that she could see evidence of the school values in the behaviour of the children across the school. We were especially proud of the fact that she saw how inclusive the school is and that one of the most positive characteristics about the school is the children saying there is a high level of respect for people from different backgrounds.

We are very grateful to those parents who took the time to speak to the inspector and to respond to Parent View. We would like to stress that the opportunity to provide feedback is not confined to the OFSTED process and we welcome any feedback you may have. You can contact us via email at:

chairofgovernors@henwick.greenwich.sch.uk

We also want to congratulate the staff and children for the fantastic KS1 and KS2 results achieved at the end of last term. The progress scores are particularly impressive and reflect the child-focused approach to learning that our school has adopted.

CONNECTIONS@HENWICK

Our before and after school club Connections launched in September and the children seem to be thriving in this new provision. They are helping to cook dinner and then enjoying chatting and sharing the experience with their friends. The older children enjoy helping the younger children with reading and there is support from the staff for those who have homework to do. Every half term there is a new theme which becomes the focus for craft activities, social skills, film nights, cooking and sharing ideas.

Connections also ran over the half term holiday with sports sessions, cycling, apparatus climbing, football and other indoor and outdoor activities. It is a relaxed and welcoming environment for the children, and we are pleased to be able to provide this wrap-around care to such a high standard.

FUNDING

There is lots of publicity around the shortage of funding for schools. Schools throughout the country, and particularly those in cities, are struggling to manage. Henwick is currently in a reasonably good financial position, however as budgets continue to be cut, we will need to find ways to increase our income to avoid needing to cut costs. The government gives money to schools to provide education based on the numbers of pupils. At Henwick some, but not all, of our year groups are full.

Another source of very important funding for our school is the Pupil Premium Grant. This is additional funding (£1,320 per child per year) given to the school by the Government to help improve the attainment of disadvantaged children. The school's funding is calculated in January each year so we would encourage all parents who think that they might be eligible to complete an application form. These forms are available from the school office, staff can help check over your application and will submit them to Greenwich on your behalf.

The Governors are keen to explore options for additional fundraising so that we can provide the best resources for the children, and as parents you can help in a range of ways, for example

- Promote the school in the local community to ensure that we are full in reception in September 2020
- Apply for Pupil Premium if you think that you might be eligible
- Direct help with fundraising including suggesting links with businesses who donate to schools
- Advice on any grant giving bodies who provide funding for schools

If you think that you can help with any of these then please leave a message at the school office FAO the Governors or send an email to chairofgovernors@henwick.greenwich.sch.uk

PTA

The PTA plays a vitally important role in the school. Over the last couple of years, the money raised through activities led by the PTA has contributed to funding the covered area in the playground. As well as raising vital funds for the school, the children really enjoy the discos, summer fairs, non-uniform days, cake sales and other events that the PTA organise.

Sadly, PTA volunteer numbers have dwindled over the last few years and with only three left on the committee it is an increasingly large burden on those involved. It would be a real shame for the children to be without the fun activities that the PTA put on and also a loss to the school in terms of the money that they raise.

We would encourage any parents who could spare some time, even if it is just to help run the events when they happen, to get in touch with the PTA at henwickpta@outlook.com.

CONGRATULATIONS & THANK YOU

To our brilliant art teacher, Miss Jupp, who celebrates 40 years at Henwick this year. What an achievement!