

Overall attendance at
Governors meetings
during the 2018/2019
academic year:

97%

Endon Hall Primary & Nursery School

Governor Newsletter

Autumn 2019



I hope everybody has now settled into the new academic year and that all stakeholders are striving for success. As in previous years, this seems a good time to communicate with parents and carers regarding some key messages, our plans and main areas of focus for the academic year.

2018 - 2019 Assessment Results

Last year's SATs results have recently been released nationally. It is important to start this communication by sharing with you that we are incredibly proud of what we have achieved. The results are exceptional and to be truly celebrated. The results reflect the tireless hard work of children and staff and are to be commended. This is just one element of what we do, but one that we consider very important and that we are immensely proud of.

Our Vision and Aims

Annually, staff and governors work together to refine and build our vision for the future. This is a continued challenge as the education world evolves. We have been focusing on streamlining our vision to better encapsulate what we do. Watch this space! We have recently involved you in a challenge to change our school motto and we are looking forward to sharing these ideas. The latest Ofsted framework will influence our approach and next steps, along with the academy agenda, which continues to be the direction of travel politically.

The staff team

The staff team at Endon Hall continues to grow and develop. Staff at all levels pursue their strengths and hone their skills continually. Despite a difficult period last academic year, in which we had to undergo a restructure with our teaching assistants, we are now in a very strong place to move forward with a group of staff who are passionate in all they do and go above and beyond in order to deliver the very best education to your children. We take pride in the personal development and opportunities we offer to our staff and, although the constantly changing landscape in education and the demands of the job can sometimes lead staff to pursue other avenues, we work tirelessly to support and develop the team to maximise their potential. We currently have a very special group of staff and are proud to say so.

Social media

It is so important to us to build links with stakeholders and the wider community. All decisions we make are made with our children at the forefront. The example we set matters. We are aware of the benefits and negatives of social media in the community and how queries or concerns are communicated and can quickly generate momentum amongst groups. We are always here to listen, acknowledge and talk about any queries you wish to raise with us as this is the best way to work together to seek resolutions and understand each other. Communicating within closed groups without a conversation with the school does not result in finding a solution as none of those involved in the conversation can actually address the points raised. We have continually developed the way in which we communicate, including introducing the school Facebook page, which has been a huge success in allowing us to communicate quickly and easily to parents, carers and the wider community.

Governing Board

The governing board is due to lose three very experienced members, either imminently (Diane Oliver, who has served for 6 years) or by the end of the academic year (Andy Durber, who has served for 10 years and Ceri Reed, who has served for 4 years). They will be very sadly missed. Their commitment and professionalism to our school has been first class and we thank them sincerely for all they have done for our school; it has been a privilege to work alongside them. We recently interviewed for new members of the board. Sarah Sheldon, who is also the parent of one of our pupils, has joined the board this term. Amy Dawson, Sally Graham and Kathy Tallentire will join the board next term. This presents an opportunity for new people to join and shape the path of our school going forward.

We look forward to another successful year working in partnership with you to ensure our children receive the absolute best, both academically and personally. Thank you in advance for your continued support along the journey.

Mr D Higgins

**To find out more about our Governing Board, please visit the Governor
page on our website — <http://endonhall.staffs.sch.uk/governors/>**

In the Summer Term, our sub-committees wrote to you regarding their key areas of focus throughout the term. Here is some information from them regarding this term's areas of focus...

Pupil & Curriculum sub-committee - Key areas of focus for Autumn 2019

The Pupil and Curriculum Committee review how the curriculum is planned, taught, evaluated and resourced, including recommendations regarding the implementation of national, local and school based curriculum developments and initiatives. Much of the curriculum taught in all primary schools is dictated by the National Curriculum, however it is up to individual schools to decide how to deliver the curriculum. We also review the whole school attainment data and help to identify, monitor, and review improvement and development targets.

This term, the Pupil & Curriculum Committee focussed on the teaching and learning of the Foundation Subjects, across the Wider Curriculum. We considered how broad, balanced and relevant the school curriculum is and undertook a book scrutiny to further understand how these subjects are taught and recorded. Four members of teaching staff presented to us regarding their subjects and the curriculum development currently underway, including RSHE (which is replacing PSHE) and its links to our Healthy Schools projects.

We reviewed a number of policies and reports and received an update regarding the current focus for stakeholders (children, parents and staff).

Finance & Premises sub-committee - Key areas of focus for Autumn 2019

This year's budget planning has been the most challenging yet. We try very hard to set a budget that enables us to achieve our aims and vision for children's primary schooling. We also try to make funds available to support the children's wider education, including providing extra activities and opportunities, such as educational visits, but we do sometimes have to ask parents for voluntary contributions. We do this purely to benefit the children and always keep costs down to the absolute minimum. At the end of Year 6 we ask the children to complete an exit survey so that we can understand the impact the school has had and what improvements we could make for children. This year's survey really highlighted the value of the educational visits & additional opportunities on offer, as children shared how much they had enjoyed these experiences.

During Governor Learning Walks, it is clear to see the benefits of the computers bought from the funds raised by the Fund Raising Committee last year, so please keep supporting our school and children, it really makes a difference!

This term, the Finance & Premises Committee received an update regarding the work completed during the Summer break to improve the school and its facilities and considered the recommendations from our latest Fire Risk Assessment.

The work carried out is as follows:

- Replacement of radiators and boxing in of pipework in communal areas and in Year 1 & 2 classes
- Improved Bin Storage area and drainage works in this area
- Completion of partition in the electrical store room
- Replacement of hall curtains and blinds

We also discussed our Healthy Pupils Capital Project, which initially set out to replace the school field with an all-weather surface. We have since learnt that Sport England have turned down this proposal. Hence we are exploring further options for the use of this grant funding, aimed at developing and maximising the use of the school site.

With continued funding pressures facing schools nationally, we continue to work tirelessly to prioritise the education and well-being of pupils and staff.