



Governor Newsletter

Welcome to the Town Field Primary Governing Body Newsletter

Governors are volunteers who have overall responsibility for the running of the school. Governors see Town Field School as a special place where all staff work hard to ensure all pupils have the best opportunity to succeed, not just academically but also to be well rounded members of the community, in line with our school vision.

The governing board includes parent governors who serve for a period of four years. In the autumn term, parent governors will be invited to put themselves forward to serve as a governor so do look out for more about that when the school will contact all parents. In our newsletters, we are going to spotlight a different governor each time, starting this term with our Vice-Chair Vicki Harper-Ward.

The Summer Term

This summer term, governors have focussed on PSHE (personal, social, health and economic education) in school. We visited lessons and spoke to pupils who valued PHSE lessons with "tips for life" as one pupil put it. You can read more about it on the school website.

In June we asked the National Governors Association to look at how well governance takes place. This recognised much good practice within our governing body and provided us with an action plan on how to improve going forward.

This year we have had the return of SATS and whilst they can be stressful the results show the hard work and dedication of parents, pupils and staff. Results are published in September but initial results are very pleasing. Everyone should be proud of their work and the support they have given, particularly after a really challenging couple of years due to the pandemic.

The school was inspected by Ofsted (Office for Standards in Education) in June. We are waiting for their final report which will give their view on overall effectiveness of the school in key areas and will guide the school in future improvement. Thank you to everyone who contributed their views and in particular to the pupils who so honestly provided their thoughts. When the final report is received it will be made available to everyone and we look forward to reading it.

Academy status

Next term we will be hopefully progressing closer working with the Rose Learning Trust as we progress becoming part of the Trust. This will help improve the school further and as this progresses the headteacher will keep you informed.

Governor Spotlight by Vicki Harper-Ward

I joined the governors when my oldest child was in Y1; I have Chaired a board of Trustees before so, when the opportunity came up to apply to join, I thought I would give it a go, but I didn't really know what to expect. I have found the experience really interesting; it puts a different perspective on school life from that of my role as a parent and it has opened my eyes to the challenges that face schools and teachers, particularly over the last couple of difficult years. Although I am a parent, my governor role requires a completely different approach. We have strategic oversight of the school and are not involved in any day-to-day, operational, decisions about the running of the school. We look at the impact of what is being done around school and we challenge leaders to ensure that school is going in the right direction. Every term we come into school and look at a particular area of focus which puts what we are told in meetings into context and allows us to see if what we are told is the reality. That's the really interesting bit – getting to speak to children and staff about what they are doing, although it has taken me a while to get used to as my “day job” is completely different (and I have to warn my children in advance if I am in school or they are hideously embarrassed!) The most difficult bit has been getting to grips with understanding the school finances and monitoring the budget, but the school and Board have been really supportive, and we are encouraged to ask questions to make sure we know what we are looking at. Governing is hard work and it's a real challenge to get to grips with it as a volunteer but knowing that what we do helps the school develop, as well as helping me gain experience and knowledge means it is really rewarding.

If anyone would like to know more about becoming a governor, please get in touch with us by email through admin@townfield.doncaster.sch.uk.

And Finally...

As school has remained open throughout the year – we want to thank all staff, parents and carers for your support which has allowed this to happen. We sadly say goodbye to some of our teachers but wish them luck in their new ventures; we look forward to welcoming our new staff in September and in particular are delighted that school is supporting three teacher training students in the new year, as part of the Initial Teacher Training Programme, we wish them well on their training journey at Town Field.

GOODBYE

Also, we want to wish year 6 pupils well for their future and hope that the days they spent at Town Field will support them in the next stage of life. We will miss you!

Contacting the governors - If you would like to contact the school governors about a governance issue, you can contact them through the school office on: 01302 362198 or email: admin@townfield.doncaster.sch.uk

