



FOXHILLS FEDERATION BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Newsletter to Parents January 2024

Dear Parents,

The governors would like to wish all parents and children a happy and healthy New Year! We hope the second term of the school year will be productive and enjoyable for all, and we would really like some drier weather too!

The Autumn Term was a busy one, we held two full governing body meetings, and committee meetings for Finance and Resources, Curriculum, Learning and Attainment, and Safeguarding. Governors undertook Learning Walks for Special Needs, Maths and Curriculum provision across the two schools. We monitored staff training of safeguarding by conducting structured interviews with a cross section of staff. Our three new governors - Steph Toyne, Claire Minnock and Helen Robinson – have started the induction training provided by Hampshire Governor Services, and other governors have taken advantage of the training opportunities offered. Later in January we will have our annual Whole Governing Body Training, this year the focus is on Improving Attainment in Vulnerable Children. It will be delivered by our Learning and Leadership Partner, who knows the two schools well.

The voluntary post of being a governor carries considerable responsibilities. Unsurprisingly most boards carry vacancies which impact on their ability to discharge their responsibilities effectively. The vacancy rate across Hampshire is 20%. Foxhills Federation is fortunate to have a full complement of governors, and I would like to thank parents, staff and members of the community who give their time to support Foxhills as governors.

Infant School Ofsted

Each school has its own Ofsted inspection, the federation is not inspected as a whole. The Infant School has been in the Ofsted 'window' for some months, and it was no surprise to get the call on Tuesday 31st October advising the inspection would take place on the following two days. Quite rightly, the 24-hour notice ensures the inspector sees the school as it really is, and judgements are based on the day-to-day teaching and learning, and management of the school. Parents' opinions are sought through Parentview, and we were delighted that 97% of those who replied were very happy with their children's education and wellbeing. If you were among the very small percentage who had some concerns, we do urge you to discuss these with your child's teacher, or the headteacher.

Governors are part of the school's management team, and as such, five governors met with the inspector. The interview covered our monitoring of safeguarding, understanding of SEND provision and the curriculum, and our aspirations and vision for the school. Governors are kept well informed on all these matters, and it was gratifying to be able to discuss them with the inspector.

The Infant School Ofsted report can be viewed on [50234997 \(ofsted.gov.uk\)](https://www.ofsted.gov.uk/inspections/50234997)

Junior School Staff changes

Our Junior School Deputy Headteacher, Mrs Alison Kay, left on December 31st, to take up a position at a school in Salisbury. This will enable her to move back to her family home nearby, and we wish her well in her new post. Mrs Howe and the governors will be looking at the most effective leadership model for the federation during the next term.

Foxhills Federation at Ashurst Village fete

This community event took place in September and provides an opportunity to showcase the school to the village, this year Ashurst Pre-School was also represented. We had 'pole position' just inside the entrance, met many parents and children who had either attended Foxhills in the past, or were current or future pupils. A small group of children from the Junior School choir sang extremely well, thank you to Mrs Normington for organising this, and to Mrs Datlen for setting up the display of children's work. I enjoyed being part of the federation's presence at the fete, despite the exceptionally hot day which left us wilting by 3.30pm!

Foxhills Federation website www.foxhills-jun.hants.sch.uk

Our new website went live at the end of last term – thank you to our media assistant Dan Bushen and all the staff and children who contributed to its development. It's an excellent resource, and reflection of the aims for our federation.

Finally, a thank you to all those who made the end of the Autumn Term extra special for Foxhills children.

The term started with exceptionally high temperatures and ended with an almost permanently flooded playing field and drive. Sadly, Foxy Fireworks were cancelled for the first time ever, in common with many other local displays - a huge disappointment for the Friends of Foxhills, who put so much effort into this event. Despite the challenges of bad weather and staff sickness, the end of term saw all the usual celebrations taking place, and we look forward to the Spring Term and hopefully better weather.

With best wishes

Ann Arcott

Chair of Governors, for Foxhills Federation Board of Governors.

DRAFT