



TOWER HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL | GOVERNORS NEWSLETTER – 2022

EDITION 2 | SPRING | 2022

Introduction

Welcome to our second Governor's newsletter, as we try to demystify the role of Governors and how we support and challenge the school as a critical friend. One aspect that is important is understanding that the Governors are 'Strategic' and not 'Operational'. This means that we are more focused on matters like ensuring budget is managed effectively, or that the School Improvement & Development Plan (SIDP) is delivered effectively, rather than the day to day operation of the school – something we are fairly sure everyone is happy about!

What do we actually do?

I have been a governor at Tower Hill Primary School since my eldest son started in Year R – and he is now in Year 6! It has been quite the journey particularly in the last few years, and there was a very steep learning curve at the beginning with many new acronyms to learn.

Now in my 4th year as Chair of the Governing Body, I genuinely look forward to every meeting I attend with a group of people I consider good friends – and all of whom have a single focus as Governors: How to best support the school, the staff, and the senior leadership team.

One way I have supported the school this term is by hearing children in Year 1 read. This is a highlight of my week – it is wonderful to see the progress the children are making.



I particularly enjoyed joining the children on World Book Day when I got in role and dressed up as a pirate!

Another monitoring visit undertaken this term has seen us joining the school Maths Leader, Miss Stratton, on a learning walk around classrooms to find out more about how the children are learning Maths in school. The school have adopted an 'I do, we do, you do' structure to their lessons with a 'no ceiling' approach to learning – supporting the ethos of the school that ALL children can achieve at a high level. We saw children being challenged and supported to develop their number skills through this approach and it was a delight to see them thriving and confident to tell us what they were doing.



Owen Gardner, Chair of Governors



How do we monitor the effectiveness of the school?

Each governor is assigned a key area for development from the school's improvement and development plan. Mrs Sasiela has been focussing on the teaching of writing this term.....

Mrs Agnieszka Sasiela
Co-opted Governor



I am a new governor at Tower Hill Primary School as I was appointed in October 2021. I was keen to join the Governing Body to help make a difference and to bring my skills and experience to support the staff and the children.

Since joining the Governing Body, I have had the pleasure of supporting the school in different ways. I visited Christ Church Cove with the children in Year 1 to take part in an Easter workshop. The children had an amazing time and learnt a lot about the Easter story to support their learning in the classroom.

During this last week of the Spring term, I spent a morning in school finding out all about the Awesome Author. I watched an assembly where the teachers performed 'A Squash and a Squeeze' by Julia Donaldson before visiting some wonderful Literacy lessons to see the children learning how to become estate agents and persuade buyers that this was the house for them! It was an absolute delight to speak to some of the children and find out their thoughts about their learning. The children were so positive and showed a real enthusiasm.

I am looking forward to visiting again in the Summer Term to find out even more about the teaching of reading and writing across the school.

Other Visits



In addition, we perform 'monitoring' visits throughout the year, ranging from financial checks such as payroll and petty cash, health and safety tours, fire safety checks, site tours, IT Asset checks and even a visit to Foxes' Hollow.

The reason for these visits is to provide accountability for the school to ensure it is performing in the right way, and to be that 'critical friend' to support the leadership of the school.

Sports Premium

Another area of focus for the Governing Body is to ensure the additional funding the school receives for investment in Sport and something called Pupil Premium – additional funding to support those children that need it most - is spent well. Swimming lessons, bikeability, as well as training for teachers to better teach sport to the children is funded using this Sport and Pupil Premium. The recent successes in Dance competitions and Football can be directly tracked to the approval for the funding spent on these areas.

At Tower Hill Primary School our core vision is that ALL children will be equipped with the skills, knowledge, understanding and empathy that will lead to them being able to make their own choices in life, successfully. We strive for all to be actively engaged in their own learning, to be motivated and eager, to achieve and attain to their own full potential – thus making them proud of themselves and of being a member of the 'Tower Hill Team'. Our relationships between all members of Tower Hill are held as key to our success. We value each member of the school community as an individual and interact with them honestly, respectfully and politely.