



Governor Newsletter
Spring 2022
(Issue 1)

Message from Mike O'Donovan (Chairman)

Welcome to our first Governor newsletter. We plan to circulate three newsletters a year one per term so that we can keep you up to date with changes that affect the school, report on what we have been up to and what is planned for the future.

The last two years have been unprecedented and the Governors would like to thank Mrs Harper, Mrs Grace and Mrs Pickard for their outstanding leadership, and all the staff for their resilience and teamwork during these challenging times. I am sure you will agree that they have all done an amazing job.

I would also like to welcome the new parents and carers who have joined the school in the last two years. In normal times I would come into school and meet with you when your children join, however as this has not been possible hopefully this and future newsletters will give you a taste of who the Governors are and what we do.

Who are the Governors?

Mike O'Donovan – Foundation Governor (Chair)
Margaret Claire Embleton – Foundation Governor
Camillus Iheanacho – Foundation Governor
Stuart Linnell – Foundation Governor
Cath Wellbelove – Foundation Governor
Mrs Deb Harper – Headteacher/ Ex Officio Governor
Emma-Jane Kelly – Staff Governor
Andrew Davey – Parent Governor (Vice Chair)
Anna Grossi – Parent Governor

What do the Governors do?

As Governors we have a statutory obligation to ensure that the school is operating effectively and in line with legislative and educational requirements.

Our role is a strategic one, with three key functions:

- Alongside Ani Magill (Chief Executive Officer of the Xavier Education Trust), holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils.
- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.



Mrs Harper (Headteacher) is responsible for the internal organisation, management and control of the school and the implementation of the strategic framework established by the Local Governing Committee.

Governor Visits and Activities

As part of our role Governors should visit the school regularly (at least once a term). We have had some very insightful visits recently.

Margaret Claire visited the school in January and saw how the school have transformed playtimes for the children. They have recognised that if children have had a successful playtime they will learn more in class as they will be in the right emotional state.

Margaret Claire saw how the school have started to make playtime more creative, encouraging the use of old materials such as old tyres, cardboard tubes, guttering, dressing up clothes, fabrics and old keyboards to inspire imaginative collaborative play. She also saw how they have started to set up role play areas on the playground so children can role play life experiences and practise the skills they need in life in a safe environment. This has already had a positive impact on children's levels of anxiety and made the playtime experience more fun.





Mike and Cath have visited Mrs Rose regarding Religious Education to monitor the RE provision. They were also involved in the recent RE inspection, meeting with the RE inspectors and hearing their feedback which will be shared in due course.

Camillus has conducted his termly Health and Safety visit and noted that everything was in order.

Emma Jane accompanied year 3 on their trip to Buster Farm in February and in March Anna joined year 6 on their trip to London visiting the Houses of Parliament and National Galley. They were both well organised trips and most enjoyable days for both the children and adults.

In March, Andrew took teams to a Touch Rugby Tournament at Chobham Rugby club and some children to a Cricket Roadshow at Gordon's School. He also accompanied year 6 children to a Junior Citizen event run by Woking Borough Council which was supported by the Police and Fire Service, alongside British Rail and the RNLI.

New Website

The school have done a fantastic job updating the school website to make it more user friendly, appealing and compliant. Margaret Claire has worked with the school to review it and provide feedback.

Governor Training

To ensure that we are up to date on latest legislation, Ofsted and best practice all Governors have been participating in Successful Governance training courses run by Ruth Merton. We were also very lucky to have a session on Safeguarding with Anne Halliday the Xavier Trusts Safeguarding Lead.

Governors School Development Fund

We would like to express our sincere thanks to all the parents and carers who make voluntary contributions to the Governors School Development Fund. Many schools have a Governors voluntary fund which helps raise much needed money to improve the quality of provision for all pupils.

During the last three years, the fund has contributed to over £50,000 in additional school funding and we need to start topping it up to fund future improvements. We are sure most of you are aware that school funding is a hot topic at the moment. In these austere times, your generous contributions as parents and carers take a bit of the pressure off and allow the school to channel the government allocations directly to what they are intended for – paying top quality staff to deliver excellent teaching to each and every child. The Governors School Development Fund enables the school to provide the extras and frills which go into creating the best school journey your children could have.

The fund has paid for interactive touch screens in the classroom, a new IT server and 30 laptops for the children to use in class. It is also going to be used to update the WIFI in school which will enable the laptops to be used effectively in the classroom.



At our recent Governors meetings we have set plans in motion for several new and exciting projects, some of which we will be able to apply for Government Grants, but others require self-funding. The projects include improvements to the KS2 playground, a MUGA (multi use games area) and an outdoor classroom.

We understand the difficulties many families have endured over the last 18 months, but to continue with the schools plans, as always, we do need help from you with contributions.

Contributions can be made by standing order or one off payments. Standing orders can be set up online with your bank or you can complete the attached standing order mandate and return to the School Office.

The bank details for the Governors School Development Fund are:

- St Hugh of Lincoln Primary School - Governors
- Lloyds Bank PLC
- Sort code: 30-90-90
- Account number: 35608268

We would really appreciate it if you could in any way offer a small donation on a regular monthly basis or a one off payment, it would be so beneficial to our children.

Parent Engagement

Governors welcome your feedback and comments. We will be sending out a Parent and Carer engagement survey in the near future. In the meantime if you have any comments or feedback please email them to Mike O'Donovan
modonovan@sthugh-of-lincoln.surrey.sch.uk

Safeguarding

As part of his role as Safeguarding and Child Protection Governor Mike meets with Mrs Grace, the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead to undertake a termly review meeting of the school's safeguarding process. Mike O'Donovan can be contacted on the following email modonovan@sthugh-of-lincoln.surrey.sch.uk