



INTRODUCTION FROM THE CHAIR

I am delighted to welcome you to the autumn edition of the Governors Newsletter to parents.

The Governing Body at our school endeavours to fulfil the role defined by government and supported by the local authority. In doing so we hope that we can help to make our school the very best it can be for the benefit of all our children, staff and parents. Myself and all the governors have gained an enormous respect for the headteacher and all the staff in the school. The amount of effort, care for our children, and 'going the extra mile' we see on a regular basis from all our staff is nothing short of inspirational.

This newsletter informs you about the role of a governor, who we are, visits into school, outcomes from the parent survey and amazing parent comments, the school's key priorities for the year, the curriculum, the premises update and an introduction to Friends of Holmesdale, who work tirelessly to raise much needed funds for our children.

A huge congratulations to Holmesdale for achieving the Quality Mark for Inclusion and Diversity. The school is also currently working towards a teaching assistant award and the 'STOP' Anti-Bullying Award.

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WHAT IS A GOVERNOR?

Our Governors are all volunteers who give up their time, skills & experience to help and support Holmesdale Infant School. We are involved in making important collective decisions and because of this, we are answerable to parents and also the wider community. The role of governors is also an area inspected by Ofsted to help make a judgement of the overall Leadership and Management of the school.

Some examples of the work that we get involved in includes Parent Surveys, Approval of School Policies, reviewing the School Improvement Plan and monitoring and evaluating the standards of pupil attainment.

WHO ARE THE GOVERNORS AND WHAT ARE THEIR LINKS TO THE SCHOOL?

This information has been published previously but there are a couple of changes and we think it will be helpful for new parents and carers.

The Governing body is made up of four different types of Governor and they each provide a link to a specific topic or area of responsibility so they can be informed about relevant documents and legislation and feedback to all Governors.

Name of Governor	Type of Governor
Mrs Dawn Curry (Chair)	Co-opted
Mrs Eileen Charlton	Co-opted
Mrs Angela Chappell	Co-opted
Mr Frank Stainton	Parent
Mrs Sara Dunkley	Parent
Mrs Diane Prest	Parent
Mr John Allsop	Local Authority
Mrs Catherine Robinson	Headteacher
Mrs Sarah Lockwood	Teaching Staff

GOVERNOR VISITS

The Governors carry out pre planned visits to the school and write a report for the governing body. The purpose of the visits is to provide an independent view of current activities and /or their particular focus area. Visits are carried out on a regular basis and if any parent or carer would like to view any of the reports, please speak to a Governor.

There is also the opportunity for Governors to attend courses and training in and out of school to help both develop their role and gain a better understanding of the workings of the school.

RECRUITING GOVERNORS

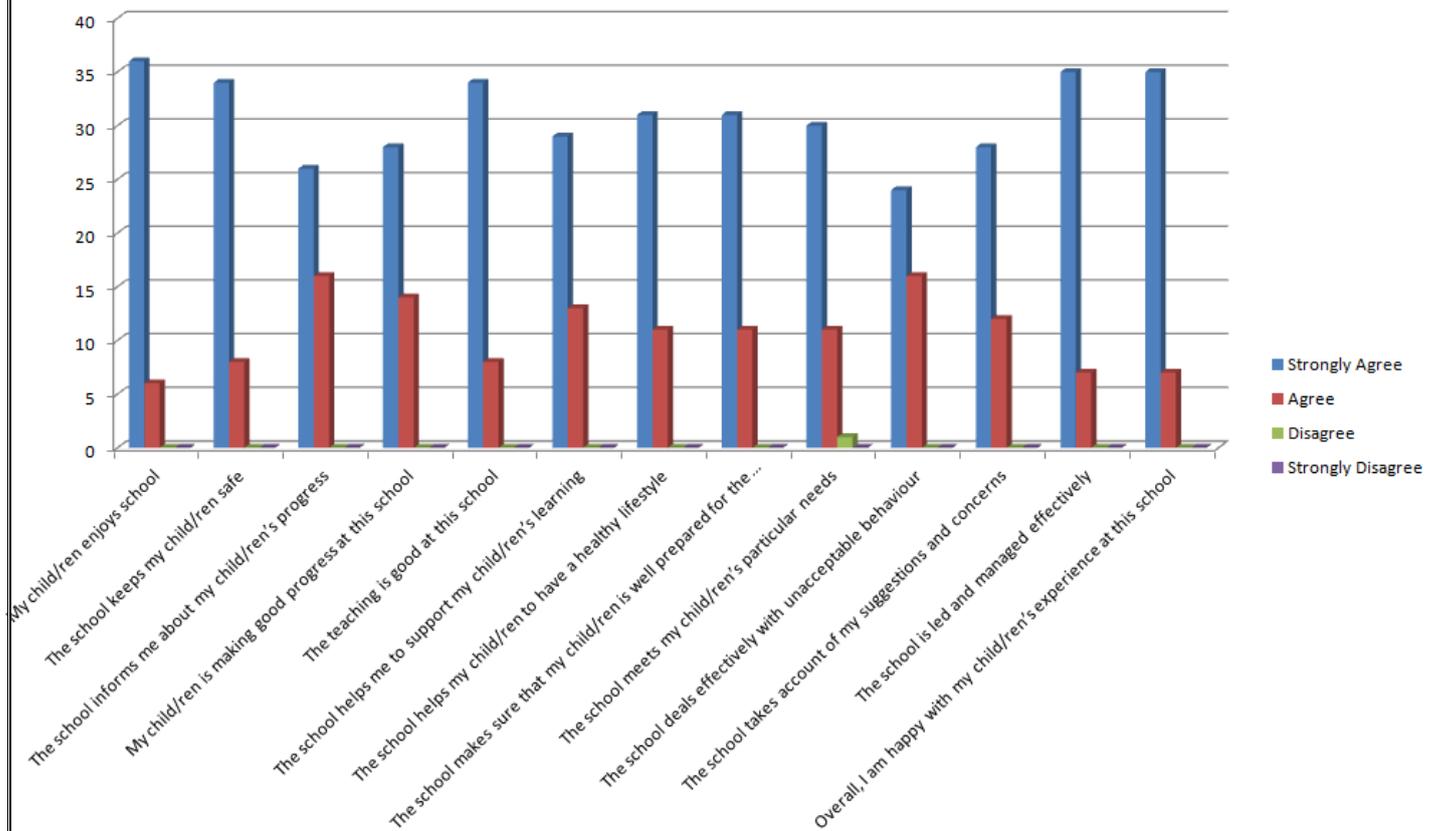
A Governor's term is 4 years. We are sometimes looking to recruit new governors, particularly parent governors. If this is a role that interests you then please come and speak to us in school about what the roles and responsibilities are. Better still, talk to another parent governor to find out about what it is they do.

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PARENT SURVEY RESULTS 2017

Thank you to everyone who responded to our annual survey at the end of the summer term. It is great to see that the overwhelming majority of parents agree that their child/ren enjoys school, feels safe, the teaching is good and overall parents and carers are happy with their child/ren's experience at Holmesdale Infants.

A summary of the results and some comments from parents are below:



Holmesdale is...

...brilliant because we take care of each other. We celebrate what other children have done. I always feel safe.

...the school I love because we get to grow our rainbow brains every day. We never give in.

...amazing because all the teachers are kind and helpful. Every teacher and pupil takes part.

...epic because it is as much fun as your home. That's why it's called Holmesdale Infant School!

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KEY PRIORITIES:

At Holmesdale Infant School staff are always striving to improve the education and provision for the children. Every year key priorities are highlighted on the School Improvement Plan.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare
To secure a 'Growth mindset' approach to learning across the school.
Curriculum and achievement of pupils
To develop a maths mastery approach across the school
The Quality of teaching
To develop understanding and use of Quality First Teaching [QFT] as a way of removing barriers to learning and enabling all children to progress to expected
Leadership and management
To monitor and act on analysis to try and improve the attendance of all children
To investigate and use a secure safeguarding system ['My concern']
EYFS
To act on analysis to improve progress and attainment for all pupils, with a focus on phonics, writing and maths mastery.

CURRICULUM

The school is proud of the creative and interesting Curriculum it provides for the children. The staff at school ensure that the children get a well-rounded and interesting curriculum that will prepare them for the future.

School will continue to give children a wide range of experiences including Forest School visits, Rise and Shine workshops [more information nearer the time], Book week and other enrichment days.

PREMISES UPDATE

We are always looking to improve our school building and surrounding area. We have had bids agreed by the local authority to complete the third phase of curtain walling, which will replace the last of the windows and wooden cladding, as well as funding to replace the roof above the dining area. Because the organisation of these projects is done through the local authority we have no clear date for when these projects are to be completed. We hope by the end of 2018!

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FRIENDS OF HOLMESDALE (FOH)

Integral to the school and parent partnership is the group of parents who are known as Friends of Holmesdale that fundraise to spend money on specific projects that the school couldn't finance without help. Please try and support FOH by coming along to summer and Christmas fairs, buying raffle tickets, donating raffle and hamper items and volunteering your time. Over the last few years, FOH have been able to purchase books, support school trips, and buy the boat in the playground. This year they will be funding new playground markings for the children to enjoy. The Governors would like to thank this group of dedicated parents for all the time, effort and support that they give to the school.

If you would like to contact a Governor or have any questions either speak to one of us in the playground or ask for our contact details from the school office.