



Trusting in God, together we live, learn and grow.

Welcome to our summer edition of the Governors Newsletter of 2024/25

It has been a busy summer term and here we are at the end of another amazing school year. Firstly, well done everyone, all our wonderful children, our class teachers, TA's, administrators, midday meal supervisors and our many volunteers, and of course all our parents and carers working so well together. It has been a very hot summer term, and I would like to thank Mrs Bacon for keeping us all safe in these extremely hot learning conditions. Seeing the doors flung open and fans cooling down the classroom shows the dedication of our staff team to keep the children on task and learning even on the hot days that we have experienced this term. Let's hope it continues for the children's summer holidays.



Messages from our Governors' Curriculum Committee

The Curriculum Committee has continued to work collaboratively to support and monitor the delivery of a broad and balanced curriculum across the school. This year, our focus has included the following key areas:

- 1. Phonics**
Significant work has been undertaken to strengthen our phonics provision. We have reviewed teaching approaches, monitored progress data, and ensured consistency in delivery across key stages.
- 2. School Website**
The committee has overseen improvements to the school website. Updates have made the website more parent-friendly, ensuring statutory information is clearly presented and reflects our current provision. Feedback always welcome 😊
- 3. Two-Year Rolling Curriculum**
The committee are actively supporting the teaching staff as they work on a two-year rolling curriculum to better meet the needs of our mixed-age classes. This ensures coverage of all national curriculum objectives over a two-year cycle and supports progression and continuity in learning.

The committee remains committed to ensuring that our curriculum is engaging, inclusive, and well-sequenced, meeting the needs of all pupils.

Tom Geatchers on behalf of our CC

Celebrating teaching and learning of science at Haresfield

I've recently had the privilege of spending time in school looking at how Haresfield's approach to science is resonating with our children. My role, on your behalf, is to ask whether we, as a school, are setting plans in line with the National Curriculum, and crucially, whether we are doing what we say we will: enabling our children to explore and discover the world around them, resulting in a deeper understanding.

To find out, I spent some time reviewing our curriculum intent, looking at books, enjoying the displays, talking to some of our very gifted staff, and most importantly talking to some of our fantastic children.

After just moments with a group of our Key Stage 2 children, it was clear: they are proud of their work, extremely capable, and have an inspiring curiosity. The children report that they enjoy having the opportunity to get "hands on" with learning (let's be honest, I'm sure we all have entertaining memories of experiments that went a bit wrong at school), and they feel well supported to learn and "try stuff out".



It was easy to see how their development in analysis and investigation has grown over the course of the year. Early work in books was revisited later with deeper understanding and more precise technical language. The collection of certificates and stickers perfectly complemented thoughtful and accurate work, a wonderful testament to the effort so clearly visible in the classroom and in the science books.

We should all be very proud of how our children engage with the world around them with such openness and interest. We might also consider it a reminder for us to be just a little more curious ourselves and be willing to be surprised from time to time.

It's been a great year for science. Our passionate and talented staff were extremely kind in allowing me to peer into books and hold conversations with their pupils, for which I am very grateful. I have every confidence that as we wrap this year up, and immediately start planning for even better things next year, the children at Haresfield Primary School have great opportunities ahead to experience the wonder of the world around them.

Thank you to all of the endless hours our dedicated staff put into making science such a great subject.

Have a great summer, all, and stay curious!

Terry Perez on behalf of our CC

Sports Day

This term Haresfield School were fortunate enough to have a fantastic sports day. The children took part in several activities during the morning including, skipping, football, bike riding, high jump and the obstacle course. Then during the afternoon, the juniors took part in several races. Thank you to our parents for coming to watch and support the school. It was amazing to see all children get involved and work together showing sportsmanship and determination. We want to say a big thank you to all our amazing year 5's and 6's for leading each group and running the activities.



Whole School Reward

As a special whole-school reward for collecting Aim High Balls, pupils from across the whole school enjoyed an exciting trip to the zoo! Highlights included seeing majestic elephants, curious capybaras, cheeky meerkats and towering giraffes up close. Children also took part in unforgettable animal experiences, bravely touching a python and meeting a giant African snail. The adventure continued with several pupils nearly getting lost in the maze, adding to the fun! Everyone enjoyed a sunny picnic together, and all agreed it was a wonderful day filled with laughter, learning, and lasting memories.



The bishop's visitor visit

Earlier in the term we were delighted and privileged to welcome **Caroline Gilderdale**, the Bishop's Visitor to our school. We were so proud of your children making her visit so special. Please take a minute to read her letter below which has been edited for this newsletter but is available in full in Mrs Buckles office

Dear Rachel, Thank you for your warm welcome... It is always a pleasure to speak with you and hear about all you and your staff and governors are doing to support the flourishing of your pupils and community. I was very interested to see some of the school Big Books, which give an overall picture of the rich education you provide and

also illustrate what pupils really treasure as being important to them. Your Christian Values Book contained some beautiful comments written by pupils. It was clear that the language of values is understood and articulated well by pupils. ... It was noticeable too, that your Christian Values were threaded though all [the work you do] that this document is a 'living' work in progress... You also welcome into school a local artist who examines Bible stories through the exploration of creative art. What a wonderful way to develop understanding of the Bible!

*I was delighted to sit with four pupils, to talk through their RE books... We had a super conversation about the Trinity and all four showed a very good, age-appropriate understanding of this very challenging concept! I was also taken on a tour of the school and the children were enthusiastic and articulate as they showed me the school Prayer Corner and explained how that it was important for people to have an opportunity to sit quietly and write or say prayers! ... I also had the pleasure of taking part in the Praise Worship. It was a very uplifting and a joyous occasion. The children were engaged as the words and meaning of each worship song were explained. They all sang with feeling and expression. The worship ended with the school prayer. ... I could see from the [appreciative] reactions of the parents and grandparents who attended... I have been impressed by the warm, caring atmosphere which pervades and that your Christian Vision, Trusting in God together, we live, learn and grow. (based on Jeremiah 17:7-8) underpins everything in the life of this lovely school. May I thank you and all the staff for your hard work and commitment, enabling all pupils to flourish as a children of God. **Caroline Gilderdale**, the Bishop's Visitor*

Haresfield Summer Fayre

Thank you to *Sanette Wright* chair of the PTFA and the PTFA itself for a wonderful celebration of community and school family spirit at the School Fayre last week. I had the pleasure to drop in and see many smiley faces, fun and games and hot and cold food and drinks keeping everyone happy. I was particularly touched by the amount of ex pupils who also came to say hello as well as welcoming some of our new families and members of staff starting in September. Well done all.

Please get in touch To help to continue to maintain our communication, if you have any feedback about the newsletter or any suggestions / comments about any aspect of school life, please email me on: chair@haresfield.gloucs.sch.uk.

Thank you for all your support and for your wonderful children. Have a lovely summer holiday and a well-earned rest. **Helen Williams** on behalf of the governing body

