

# HUNSDON

## Governors' News



### Summer Term 2022

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### Letter from the Chair

Dear Parents and Carers

I write this in the middle of the two-day heatwave at the beginning of the final week of term. It is certainly the hottest day of the year so far and is set to break the all-time record tomorrow (although I note that temperatures at the end of the week when you read this will be back down to seasonal levels and the heatwave will probably be a distant memory). At the same time the contest to succeed Boris Johnson as PM is in full swing (still five in the race at this point). And yet, has addressing climate change figured significantly within the sparring between the candidates? Not to my knowledge. Which just goes to show how easily even the best educated and best informed among us are content to pass the greatest of problems to future generations

if they are not seen to have immediate impact on the cost of living.

So we are putting our trust in the upcoming generations to sort out the problems which previous generations have caused and done little to address. Which might sound terribly pessimistic were it not for the fact that, from day one in school, our children are being taught about the problems of climate change and being continuously reminded of the need for sustainability. And as a school, I hope we are making some progress; you'll be aware that a few years ago we arranged for solar panels to be mounted on the hall roof and - with the cost of energy going sky-high - that is absolutely paying dividends. At the last count, the school used 80% of the electricity being generated which we otherwise have needed to buy in. And we have recently added 'sustainability' as a specific section in our ongoing School Development Plan. We won't solve the problem of climate change overnight, but with **our** best efforts and well-founded trust in those currently in education, then perhaps the future doesn't look quite so bleak.

I hope you all have a great summer break. With best regards

**Mike Newman**

Chair of Governors, Hunsdon JMI School

### KS2 SATS results

A massive congratulations to our Year 6s, who weren't phased by their Key Stage 2 SATS papers in the least and, against a backdrop of lower National and County results, have managed splendidly! I am very pleased to tell you that all of the children entered, managed Expected or Above in their Mathematics, Writing, Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation (SPAG) and Science tests and (following a remark of a very badly marked paper) we hope this will be matched in the Reading Test. Successes like these are hard won, and heartfelt congratulations must also be shared with the Year 6 team of Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Dunstan, Mr. Johnson and Mrs. Chandler who have done such an amazing job of preparing the children.

### Dates for your diary:

#### AUTUMN TERM 2022

Inset Day Thursday 1st September (8:45am start)

Term Starts Friday 2nd September

Half Term Monday 24th – Friday 28th October

Occasional Day Monday 28th November

Term Ends Wednesday 21st December (at 2.30pm )

## Your Governing Body

Mike Newman Co-opted Governor, Chair of Governors  
01279 843358 / 07887 540398 / m.newman@hunsdon.herts.sch.uk

Matt Simpson	Co-opted Governor, Vice	Steve Price	Co-opted Governor
Karen Osterley	Clerk to the Governors	Nick Saw	Co-opted Governor
Lynn Barnett	Co-opted Governor	David Wilson	Co-opted Governor
Hannah Clark	Staff Governor	Vacancy	Co-opted Governor
Helen Lord	Associate Governor	Nomination received	Parent Governor
Jon Millward	Head Teacher	Nomination received	Parent Governor
Sikhu Ngwenya	Co-opted Governor	Vacancy	Parent Governor

The role that the Governing Body plays in everyday life may not be very noticeable, but is vital to the success of the school. Firstly it can provide extra know-how in areas such as health & safety, finance and premises management to support staff in these areas. And secondly it has a responsibility to ensure that every aspect of school life is conducted properly in accordance with the range of policies that define its day-to-day activities. As an example of both, governors were closely involved in the very difficult balance of assessing alternatives for teaching years 1 and 2 next year while keeping within our allocated budget - vitally important decisions!

Our school is a hugely important component of the local community, and we attach particular importance to the fact that, as a 'maintained school' under the wing of the local education authority (Herts County Council) we have our own Governing Body. Meanwhile there is undeniable political pressure for schools to become academies outside of local authority control, and small schools come under particular scrutiny because they are assumed to offer a restricted curriculum. However, as part of a (multi-school) academy we would lose the local connection and - since we believe our curriculum is as good as any - then our staff and governors are intent on retaining the *status quo*. That does mean, though, that the Governing Body's role in supporting and overseeing the school is crucial **and must be seen to be effective when subject to inspection.**

The constitution of our Governing Body allows for 13 governors, including three Parent Governors. With some 'shuffling around' last term, all three of those parent roles are currently vacant, as is one of the other (co-opted) positions. We currently have nominations for two of the Parent Governors and are keen to fill the other two positions. So if, like all our current governors, you believe it's important to maintain the link between the school and its community and you feel you can make a contribution to the important role of the Governing Body, then please speak with Jon Millward or Mike Newman.

## Friends of Hunsdon School News

As ever, thanks go to the Friends of Hunsdon School for their support with fundraising activities. Funds raised recently have been spent on supporting the school in delivering 'Wow' experiences - paying for special visitors and coaches to interesting places. Please look out for details of the next events in 2022/3!

**Hunsdon Governor News is also available in large print. Please contact the school for a copy if required.**

