

Governor News

Winter Term 2024

Issue 1



Welcome from the Chair!

My name is Sarah Cearn and I am the Chair of Governors here at Hordle CE Primary School. This newsletter aims to inform parents about the working of the Governing Body. We hope you find it useful.

The Governing Body of Hordle CE Primary School and Nursery are committed to providing a nurturing, inclusive and aspirational learning environment where every child is valued and encouraged to reach their full potential.

What is a governing body?

The governing body is a group of volunteers who work together with the school to help make important decisions. Fundamentally, their work centres around ensuring the school's vision and values are upheld and they provide support and guidance with significant financial decisions.

Governing bodies are made up of a variety of people, including parents, teachers, local community members and representatives from the church or diocese. Our governing body meet every half term to review the school's progress.

Who are we?

Sarah Cearn (**Chair of Governors**) ❖ Judith Bean (**Vice Chair**)

Claire Crook ❖ Hannah Rook ❖ Deborah Law ❖ Emma Culver (Staff)

Sylwia Gabryniak ❖ Danielle Sears ❖ Phil Mullins ❖ Sheila Slattery

Alison Gruar ❖ Tim Cosby ❖ Lucy Collins

For more information on the role of the Governing Body click [HERE](#)

Grounds development

As Governors, we are delighted to report on the school's work to continue to update the grounds. As many parents will be aware, school finances are extremely challenging. Yet, the hard work and dedication of the School Business Manager to apply for bids and grants was successful last year, with a sum of money being awarded specifically for nursery grounds development works.

The team began by working with Catherine Eldred from the Hampshire Landscaping Team and worked together after school one evening to design their dream nursery garden. At the heart of these designs was their vision for an exceptional nursery experience. Below are some of the ideas/ comments which staff felt were important in the design, which Catherine helped to consolidate:



It was then time to design their dream gardens and they came up with ideas which included a walk-in sand pit, a mini Moors Valley and even a garden! Over the Summer holidays, Matt and his team from Scandor completed the landscaping and the results are incredible.

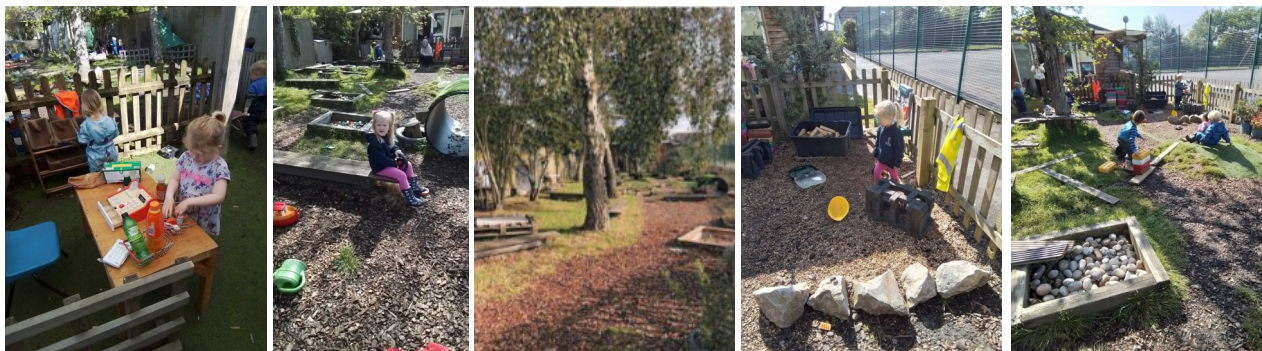
This development has had a huge impact on the nursery setting. This was recognised in our recent visit from Tim Barber, an Early Years Advisor working for Services for Young Children who said: ***The outdoor environment has been developed to a high standard. A grant to develop the learning space has been used effectively. The outdoor area has been well planned and meets the need of the children in the cohort. Careful consideration has been given to the range of experiences available for the children such as a rolling snack station, mark making area, large sand pit, cosy teepee, open-ended exploratory stations and multiple areas for physical development.***

We are eternally grateful to all of our team for their continual efforts to strive to ensure children at Hordle really do live life in all its fullness.

Please see next page for the before and afters of our wonderful new space for our youngest Hordle children.

The Transformation

Before...



After!



Governors monitoring this term

In the summer term, governors enjoyed coming in to school on Governors' Day to monitor teaching and learning and collect pupil voice. The focus of this visit was safeguarding and the governors took their time to carry out pupil voice surveys.

It was very clear to governors that the new Behaviour and Relationships Policy (introduced in January 2024) has had a real impact as children were confident to recall the three school rules; **ready, respectful and safe**. They showed a strong understanding of what it means to be safe:

Being safe means:
"Being in a place
where you like to
be".

Being safe means:
"Children having
kind hands, kind
feet and kind
voices".

Being safe means:
"That feeling when
you are
comfortable,
happy and calm".

Governors identified that the wider school curriculum, including Summer Safety Week, Anti-Bullying Week and E-safety lessons had all contributed to children's learning about keeping themselves and others safe.

Some of the things children told us about being safe included:

- You should always use the Hordle Stay Safe Code. (KS2)
- You must always be quiet and calm during a fire alarm. (KS1)
- In e-safety lessons we learn what you can and can't do online. (KS2)
- You should always tell a trusted adult if someone is doing something that makes you feel uncomfortable. (KS2)
- When you cross the road, you should always use the crossing and never talk to strangers. (KS1)
- At the beach, you should look for yellow and red flags. Never swim near a red flag! (KS2 – Summer Safety Week)
- It's really important to put on sunscreen and your sunglasses. (KS1)

Pleasingly, when conducting our pupil interviews, 100% of children said they felt safe at school.

Safeguarding will always be one of our top priorities here at Hordle CE Primary School and we are delighted to see that children feel safe in school and always know what to do if they ever feel unsafe.

Thank you and best wishes

On behalf of all at Hordle CE Primary School, the Governing body would like to say thank you and best wishes To Mrs Bawden and Mrs Slattery.



Mrs Slattery

Governors are very sorry to see Sheila Slattery leaving this term. She retires after 27 years of service to Team Hordle for which we are eternally grateful. Her dedication to Hordle and her commitment to the children have been nothing short of spectacular. Even in her last year, she was responsible for closing the deal with Hampshire on securing brand new toilets for the whole school. She leaves behind a genuine legacy and we wish her all the very best.

Mrs Bawden



Governors also send their best wishes to Mrs Bawden who, after a staggering 28 years in the classroom, has also reached retirement.

She will be really missed by all of the team. Her dedication to reading, the school library, Maths interventions, First Aid and all things related to photocopiers and the kiln is admirable. We wish her all the very best in the grand finals of the National Pearsons Teaching Assistant of the Year Competition. Margaret, you're already a winner in the eyes of Team Hordle.

Good tidings to all

Thank you for reading our first Governors newsletter. We hope you have found this insightful, providing you with further understanding of the wider workings behind our school.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year. We hope you each enjoy the Christmas holidays with your loved ones.

