

## **Governance Newsletter no 7 – April 2019**

Welcome to another Governing Body newsletter for this academic year. We aim to distribute this newsletter once every term to update parents, families and carers on the work of the Governing Body at Halfway Nursery Infant School.

The three main roles of the governing body are:

- **Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;**
- **Holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the effective and efficient performance management of staff;**
- **Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent.**

### **What has the Governing Body been doing this term?**

It was a busy Spring Term at Halfway Nursery Infant School, and the time has passed so quickly since Christmas. At the beginning of March, the school went through a two-day Ofsted inspection, which was a very intense experience for all involved. All governors had recently received Ofsted training so were able to prepare answers to key lines of inquiry, revise explanations for our data and outline our strategies to ensure high standards, progress and first rate safeguarding for all children. We met the Inspectors in the morning of the second day, and returned in the afternoon to hear the outcome.

The Governing Body is extremely proud of the hard work and dedication shown by all staff and children during the inspection (and every other day!). We are very pleased with the result, and especially the increase in outstanding judgements in some areas. The Inspectors also provided very positive feedback about standards of governance and the overall leadership of the school. We hope that the Halfway community continue to have confidence in our fantastic school and that this inspection has simply reinforced what you all already knew!

This term, governors have also been continuing to monitor school improvement priorities by visiting school, reviewing policies, undertaking book scrutinies and talking to the staff and children about the success of new interventions and initiatives.

We have also been developing stronger relationships with senior leaders and governors within our Westfield Family of Schools to learn more about the provision of education across the community.

## **New Governors?**

In the last Governance Newsletter we reported that we would soon be welcoming Raheel Khan as a new governor. Unfortunately for us, Raheel has been offered a teaching position at Chesterfield College which means he is now unable to commit to becoming a governor.

However, we accepted an expression of interest from Jennifer Thorne – current Chair of the Friends of Halfway Group (formerly HIP Group) - who has now joined us on the Governing Body. Jennifer even came in to meet the Ofsted Inspectors during her first week! We hope Jenny can provide a useful link between parent voices and strategic governance and that we can utilise fundraising activities more strategically across school.

We are also in discussions with an employee from the Department of Education, who specialises in school funding, and is interested in joining our Governing Body in the near future.

## **Governor Spotlight – Jennifer Thorne**



Each newsletter will feature an overview of one of our Governors – this term it is our new Parent Governor, Jennifer Thorne.

“Early in 2019 I was able to apply to be a parent governor at our School. My eldest son, Jack, is in Nursery, ready to start school in September, and my youngest ready to start nursery in September. Jack has greatly benefitted from the learning and support Halfway Nursery Infant School is so fantastic at providing, and I wanted to be able to repay the excellent work of the School by becoming more involved.

Currently I am a stay-at-home mum, but, as many of you will know, I chair the Friends of Halfway Nursery Infant School (FoHNIS), which keeps me very busy. Previously, I have worked for South Yorkshire Police, The Home Office and Aberdeen City Council, supporting management teams and helping to promote schemes and events, both locally and nationally.

I was overwhelmed by the huge amount of work that teachers, staff and volunteers undertake in the back ground to ensure that our school runs smoothly, and that our children receive the best education and support possible. Our recent Ofsted report is testament to this.

Halfway Nursery Infant School is a fantastic place for our children as they are at the heart of every decision, and I look forward to working with the School for years to come to help us all achieve the best we can in this ever changing world.”