

Tavistock County Infant School
Broadacres, Calthorpe Park, Fleet, Hampshire GU51 4EB

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18th January 2016

Dear Parents,

On behalf of the Governing Body I'd like to wish you all a Happy New Year!

Firstly, I'd like to introduce myself. I was elected Chair of Governors in October last year having served on the governing board for almost 5 years. My two sons have both been through Tavistock so I am pleased to be able to give something back.

The start of a new year often brings the promise of great things to come and Tavistock is no exception. Mrs O'Connor and her committed team have some fantastic plans for the year ahead, which as always will be implemented with enthusiasm.

We have already seen a fair amount of change within the last 2 years including a new National Curriculum, which has been expertly introduced within the school and is now beginning to show excellent results. Our interpretation of the Curriculum continues to build on our positive Ofsted inspection in February 2015 and is designed not only to improve the children's learning capability but also to enhance their enjoyment of their education.

We are also in the midst of the first year of 'life without levels' a new way of assessing how your children are progressing. It has been very challenging for all teachers and Governing Bodies to work with the new guidelines to create and introduce a new assessment model. We are still learning but all of the staff here are once again pulling out the stops to ensure that Tavistock is at the forefront of this new era. We continue to collaborate with other schools in the area and together we are embracing these changes, making huge strides towards improving our education system for the future.

This year Tavistock will embrace the Healthy Living initiatives being promoted at a National Level and we will be working towards Healthy School status. The Healthy School programme is a Government scheme that provides a whole school approach to enhancing the overall wellbeing of pupils. The programme isn't only about reducing sugar or getting an hours exercise each day, it is also about ensuring that children are emotionally secure and equipped with the knowledge and tools they need to grow up in these diverse times. There will be further updates later in the year and we would be very grateful for the support of all parents to enable the whole school to make the most of this exciting opportunity.

If you wish to get more involved with the strategic direction of the school, we currently have some vacancies on the Governing Body and would welcome applications from anyone in the community.



Being a Governor is a very rewarding experience but it requires commitment to attending one 2 hour evening meeting per month, visiting the school regularly and completing various administrative tasks such as policy revisions and report generation. Most of the current Governing Body either work or have young children so we do our best to accommodate those with daytime commitments, but you should be willing to commit approximately 1-2 hours per week. Full training is provided so there is no need for any prior experience in either education or as a Governor. You don't have to be connected to the school and we would welcome applications from parents as well as members of the general community.

If you or anyone you know is interested in becoming part of our small but dedicated team, please enquire via the School Office.

If you wish to speak to me in person about either becoming a Governor or anything else related to the Governing Body, please get in touch by leaving your contact details at the School Office who will be happy to pass them on to me.

I will also be at some of the parents events in the near future so please stop by and say hello.

On behalf of all the Governors I would like to thank you for your continued support and look forward to achieving happily together throughout 2016 and beyond.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michelle Hulse', written over a light grey rectangular background.

Michelle Hulse

Chair of Governors