

November 2023



Dear parents/carers,

At our first Governors' meeting in September, we were very pleased to have been re-elected as Co-Chairs of the Governor Board of Howitt Primary Community School as we both remain very dedicated to the school and its community. Joe Harvey, one of our parent governors, has also been re-elected as Vice Chair. All our governors are very committed to the school and they all work hard to keep up to date with current education issues and safeguarding requirements. Our governors' action plan includes a rigorous and systematic approach to relevant training and professional development.

Having come to the end of the school year in July 2023 with a very positive Ofsted inspection, the children and staff returned to school in September full of enthusiasm and happy to be back with their friends and colleagues. Good mental health of our children, families and staff remains one of our priorities and we are proud of our strong support network within school and within the Embark Trust.

Our annual school vision meeting took place in September and was, once again, supported by the Trust leader of Embark, Matt Crawford. He was impressed with the achievements since the previous vision meeting and with the standard of contributions from children, staff and governors. The vision can be seen in detail on the school website <http://www.howittprimary.org.uk> and on display in school. Howitt Primary children continue to be 'ACE' (Achieving, Caring, Enjoying) and this is really obvious when we visit the school and see your children achieving, caring and enjoying their learning. We are always delighted by the warm welcome that we are given by your children and how polite and confident they are when they meet us. We are not alone in this view as other visitors to the school, including Ofsted inspectors, report back to us on the exemplary behaviours and excellent learning attitudes of your children. Comments in the inspection report such as "*The school is a calm and purposeful place to learn*", "*Pupils' manners are beautiful*", "*Pupils' attitudes to learning are positive*" are a testament to a culture of caring and mutual respect. We've certainly seen this for ourselves first-hand.

We continue to ensure that our school provides a high quality education for all, delivering a rich and ambitious curriculum that meets the needs of all children. We frequently visit school to chat to the children and look at the work in their books and the work on the displays. We also love to attend special events that involve the children, such as, the Year 6's outstanding performance of Pirates of the Curry Bean. Events like these are ideal opportunities for us to meet the families of children taking part.

Our school continues to make excellent use of our own Forest Schools provision and it is being developed further so that it is part of our curriculum. This provision, alongside the many extra-curricular opportunities offered through the Embark Trust, ensure that your children are inspired to learn in a wide variety of ways. Your children have also been working towards achieving the Embark Award and a number of them received their award at the recent Embark Awards Presentation ceremony in October 2023. We are looking forward to hearing of more successes with regard to the Embark Award. See the website for further updates: <http://www.embarkfederation.com>

If anyone wishes to contact us, we can be contacted via the school office.

Jane Bowley & Carolyn Wood
Co-Chairs of Governors