

Dear parents/carers,

At our first main Governors' meeting in September, we were proud to have been re-elected as Co-Chairs of the Governor Board of Howitt Primary Community School as we both remain very committed to the school and its community. Joe Harvey, one of our parent governors, has been re-elected as vice chair. At this meeting we were also introduced to the new Pupil Leadership Team who confidently explained to governors how they had been successful in being appointed and what their plans are.

The return to school in September felt like a new start for us all with well-motivated staff and the strong leadership of our headteacher and senior leaders. Your children were clearly very excited to be back and to be sharing their learning with their friends once again. Obviously, we are following strict safeguarding procedures, linked to the COVID-19 risk assessment, to protect the staff and children. We are also highly committed to ensuring the good mental health of staff and children and, to this end, there is a strong support network within school and within the Embark Trust.

We recently enjoyed attending the Year 5 Harvest breakfast in the school hall and were entertained by the children as they sang their harvest songs, read out their Harvest poems and also performed a piece of music on the glockenspiels. It was lovely to see the families of these children taking part in this event and enjoying their Danish pastries and coffee as they tackled a Harvest quiz! We look forward to welcoming one of you to further school events.

Our new curriculum is well underway with Part Two of the two-year cycle in line with the Embark Trust's themes. The motivation and excitement of the children is obvious from the outstanding displays, the work being completed in the children's books and the lively conversations with the children themselves. Staff are very enthusiastic about the new curriculum and are researching exciting ways to teach it to our children.

Our school continues to be part of a mutual support network due to our involvement in the Embark Trust. The Embark Award scheme is being embedded into the new curriculum to give further opportunities for the children to achieve the many challenges. Indeed, we were proud to attend the recent Embark Awards evening and see several Howitt pupils receive their medals and certificates to acknowledge their achievements so far. 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>

Our annual school vision meeting took place in September and was supported by the CEO of Embark, Matt Crawford. He was impressed with the achievements since the previous vision meeting and with the standard of contributions from our children, staff and governors. Our overall is secure as we continue to be an ACE school (Achieving, Caring, Enjoying) school. The vision can be seen in detail on the school website <http://www.howittprimary.org.uk> and on display in school. If anyone wishes to contact us, we can be contacted via the school office.

Jane Bowley & Carolyn Wood
Co-Chairs of Governors