

November 2019



Dear Parents/Carers

We are delighted to have been re-elected as Co-Chairs of the Governor Board of Howitt Primary Community School as we are both very committed to the school and its community. Our background in education and leadership enables us to effectively support the dedicated staff and governors in providing meaningful educational experiences and a safe and stimulating environment in which to learn. The school continues to improve under the strong leadership and high expectations of our headteacher Mrs. Lynn Pilling.

The school is now in its third term as an academy being part of the Embark Multi Academy Trust and we have taken the opportunity to work with some of the Trustees and the Chairs of the governing boards from the other six schools in the Trust. It has been very exciting to share our practices and learn from one another, leading to improvements in our roles. Our school's website <http://www.howittprimary.org.uk> has details of some of the experiences and activities that have been undertaken and is linked to the Embark Trust website <http://www.embarkfederation.com>. There is also a school app that you can download called TheSchoolApp; this will give you up-to-date information. It is available from the Apple Store at <https://tinyurl.com/y3nktg7f> or from Google Play <https://tinyurl.com/y66pqpdz>.

This year the school has created, and makes good use of, our own Forest Schools area. Every class has the opportunity to make use of this outdoor learning experience and it always proves to be very popular. We have also tightened up on security at the school by installing new metal gates to the playground.

The school continues to offer provision for two-year olds linked to our excellent nursery provision. Our nursery is a lively and welcoming environment that uses every opportunity to extend learning and prepare children to be "school ready". This year we have also set up an after-school club (the Evening Owls) to develop our wrap-around care. It is staffed by experienced school Teaching and Learning Assistants and is very flexible in its offer. All the necessary safeguarding procedures are in place. We have enjoyed dropping in on The Evening Owls and seeing the enthusiasm of the staff and pupils in a relaxed and stimulating environment.

At the start of this academic year, governors attended an after-school meeting that established this year's school vision in the light of previous achievements and the way forward. This meeting involved all staff, pupils, governors and members of the local community. Please feel free to pop in and look at the display created from this meeting that shows our aims for the future and our past achievements; this display is also on our website. We have also attended curriculum events, creative curriculum visitors ('WOW' days) concerts, performances and celebration assemblies. A couple of examples of this are the Y5 Harvest Breakfast and the Y6 World War Two event where pupils performed confidently for their families and shared their learning experiences in a creative way. Governors also maintain strong links with the subject leaders and senior leaders, for example, at our first meeting in September we were given written and verbal updates from the Safeguarding, English, Maths and SEN leaders. We also received written reports from all the other subject areas; these provide the governors with very useful information about the curriculum.

We wish to thank you for your continued support for, and encouragement of, your children and your increasing involvement in the life of the school.

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

Regards

Jane Bowley & Carolyn Wood

Co-Chairs of Governors