

May 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

Here we are halfway through the Summer term 2019 and the Year 6 SATs are behind us. We are very proud of the way our Year 6 pupils engaged in the SATs process and really tried their very best to apply all the skills and knowledge that they have. Indeed we are proud of all our pupils and their various achievements.

Our school's new website is now live <http://www.howittprimary.org.uk> and is linked to the Embark Trust website <http://www.embarkfederation.com> . There is also a school app for you to 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/y66ppqdc> .

As co-chairs of the governing board of our school, 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.

A couple of the exciting opportunities that some of our pupils have been involved in are:

- An anti-bullying dance presentation from pupils from Heath Primary School
- A singing workshop with two West End stars culminating in the recording of the Embark anthem and some phot memories <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NVKN93q0f1Q> and <https://embarkfederation.com/newsletter/article/22>

Details of future joint events can be found on our school's newsletters (available on our website) but we'd like to highlight the following for you to look out for:

- Art day (June)
- Follow-up West End musical week (July)
- Music day

Some of our staff have also been involved in joint events, for example, the EYFS staff have met with other EYFS staff from the other six Trust schools. This gave them the chance to share good practice. Our two deputy headteachers, Mrs Rhodes and Mr. Fearn, are planning to meet with the deputy headteacher from Heath Primary school to forge even stronger links.

The Trust's Chief Executive Officer, Matthew Crawford, and their School Improvement Director, Philip Searson, have made several visits to our school and have given very positive feedback on their findings.

As governors we continue to support our school in a range of ways for example, by attending curriculum "wow" days, music and art workshops and pupils' concerts and performances. There has also been governor representation at fundraising events, for example, the BINGO night in April where, indeed, one of our parent governors, Joe Harvey, was the caller!

We have maintained our strong links with the school's subject leaders and senior leaders in support of the School Improvement Plan priorities. As a reminder for you, these are:

- To continue to raise standards in writing across the school with a particular emphasis on spelling, for all pupils so that they are at least in line with national averages with a significant proportion above.

- To ensure the phonics outcomes for all pupils in KS1 are back on track and continue to improve.
- To increase the proportion of pupils who are working at greater depth in reading, writing and mathematics so they are more in line with national.
- To narrow the gaps in outcomes of disadvantaged pupils.

Each governor has specific responsibilities linked to these priorities and to the curriculum and other areas such as safeguarding, attendance and the learning environment.

Finally, thank you for your continued support and encouragement of your children to help us fulfil our vision of being an “ACE” school where we all **A**chieve, **C**are and **E**njoy.

We look forward to seeing you at future school events.

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

Regards

Jane Bowley & Carolyn Wood

Co-Chairs of Governors