

January 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

First of all we'd like to welcome you to the Spring term 2019 as we are very much looking forward to our school's next steps now that it is officially an academy in the newly formed Embark Trust: [embarkfederation.com](http://embarkfederation.com)

Howitt Primary Community School's conversion to academy status took place on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019. The governing board of our school is very keen to take the opportunity to work with the governing boards from the other six schools in the Trust. We are very excited about the increased opportunities that being part of the Trust will present for our pupils, staff and governors as we plan joint activities and training events. You will, of course, be kept informed about these.

As governors we support our school in a range of ways for example, by attending curriculum "wow" days, music and art workshops and pupils' concerts and performances. Indeed, the two of us and one of our parent governors, Donna Walters, attended the final performance of the Y4/Y5 pupils led by the PopUK charity during the first week of this term. This performance was the result of a full day of musical fun linked to a focus on the emotional impact of children using social media. Parents/carers of the pupils also attended the performance and were clearly delighted to watch their children having achieved so much in such a short space of time. The enjoyment of the pupils was infectious – it felt as if we were at a pop concert! The whole event proved that we are, as our vision states, an "ACE" school and that we **A**chieve, **C**are and **E**njoy.

We have also established strong links with the school's subject leaders and senior leaders in support of the School Improvement Plan priorities. 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.

Last term saw the launch of our school's Wrap Around care facility, "Evening Owls", and we are really pleased that several of you have taken advantage of this opportunity. The pupils are well cared for and enjoy the activities that the staff plan and provide for them at the end of the school day.

Finally, we are grateful for your continued support and encouragement of your children and 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