

October 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

We are delighted to be continuing as Co-Chairs of the Governor Board of Howitt Primary Community School. We both have an extensive background in education, leadership and management and have been involved with this school for a number of years in various ways.

This year we are very proud of our school and of our dedicated staff and governors who work hard to provide your children with meaningful and varied experiences to move them along their learning journey and prepare them for life in the community. We are sure that you are aware of how much the school has continued to improve under the strong leadership and high expectations of our headteacher Mrs. Lynn Pilling.

You will be aware that the school has taken steps to become part of an academy and work alongside seven other Derbyshire primary schools to establish the Embark Multi Academy Trust. This will be finalised in December 2018; we are very excited about the possibilities that this opens up for our children and the staff. There will be updates for you as the process rolls out.

This year the school has made additional improvements to the outdoor learning spaces including the addition of a trim trail and a new Key Stage Two canopy. Parents, staff and governors have given of their time to support some of the improvements to the outdoor learning environment. The indoor learning environment has continued to be a focus for further improvement and staff have been supported by the school's learning environment lead teacher and the named governor for this area.

Governors are proud of the fact that the school continues to offer an effective and very successful provision for two-year olds linked to our excellent nursery provision. We currently support eight two-year olds and have a waiting list. Our nursery is a lively and welcoming environment that uses every opportunity to extend learning and prepare children to be "school ready".

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 homework project showcase events, creative curriculum visitors ('WOW' days) concerts, performances and celebration assemblies.

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