

Tacolneston & Morley Primary Schools Federation



Governor Newsletter



June 2019

Work together, learn together, grow together.....

Welcome from your Chair of Governors.

Dear Parents/Carers

This is my first Governor's newsletter since I took over as chair of the governing body. Hopefully I will have met quite a few of you when I have been visiting our schools.

I am very proud to be leading a strong committed governing board, who are pleased to support a dedicated team of staff at both schools. You will all be aware that both schools have had recent rigorous Ofsted inspections and have been graded as Good.

Although we put a lot of emphasis on results, as Church Schools we balance this with the whole development of your children. We are very focused on your children's safety and happiness whilst at school and monitor their learning and wellbeing during periodic visits to the schools. A fellow governor has produced a report for you to explain this a bit more.

As governors, we are also charged with ensuring that all money is spent effectively educating your children as well as maintaining and improving the buildings and facilities at the schools. Both schools have seen exciting building developments which we are pleased to say are paid off and we are now hoping to improve yet further the buildings at Morley. Many of you will have seen the literature advertising my Open Garden in June to raise funds for our schools. I look forward to seeing many of you there. We are also looking at using our outside facilities even more and at present have a member of staff undergoing training to become a Forest Schools Instructor. We plan to provide Forest School sessions at both of our schools next year.

Mrs Green has introduced the Parent Forums. We really appreciate the feedback from these and are pleased to say that a lot of the points raised have been

acted upon. For example: we created a homework leaflet to give parents information and advice on this important topic; we have listened to your suggestions about our rewards system and implemented changes; parking is an ongoing issue but we continue to respond to suggestions for improvements where we can; parents asked us to continue to email the link for our Friday newsletters which we are doing; we have explored other options for school photographs following feedback from parents. These are just a few of the matters that have been expedited following your feedback at Parent Forum meetings.

In the not too distant future, we will see Wymondham College open its doors to primary school age children. The opening of this school is part of a local plan to provide much needed school places following the large increase in house building in the Wymondham area. Morley Primary School will continue to provide a small, village Church school ethos for those parents who choose this for their children.

Finally, I would like to say a massive thank you to FOTS; FOMPS and our team of volunteers. Your unstinting dedication and support for our schools is very much appreciated. I would urge other parents/carers to put themselves forward to help in any way that they can.

If I can be of assistance to you please do not hesitate to email me at chairofgov@tacolneston.norfolk.sch.uk

Assuring you of my best attention at all times,

Robert Culyer

Chair of Governors



Thank You!

On behalf of the Governing body I would like to say a heartfelt thank you to both of our parents' groups that so valiantly support our schools – FOTS (Friends of Tacolneston School) and FOMPS (Friends of Morley Primary School).

Over the past few years they have done great things in both schools giving our children even greater opportunities.

This year we have had a massive drive to encourage reading in both our schools and both groups have very kindly supported this by increasing the money that we have been able to invest in books. In the past we have used money raised by both groups for computers and our amazing outdoor play equipment. Mrs. Green has to physically restrain me from playing on the outdoor equipment!

These groups of parents have worked tirelessly organising Summer Fetes. FOTs have also run events like Bingo, a school disco and uniform sales. FOMPS have run the Quiz and Chilli evenings and discos for the children. Not only have they raised money but more importantly they are enhancing our schools as a community.

I appreciate that some parents do not have time to help physically, so I hope that they will be able to help these groups financially, but if you could help out at just one event I am sure both groups would welcome your help immensely. It would be ideal if every parent helped at just one event as their child progresses through their school. Ask Ria or Lindsey and they will put you in touch.

Finally, again thank you to both groups for all that you do. You should all be very proud of all that you have achieved.

Robert Culyer

Chair of Governors

Another build at Morley?

Victorian village schools are not the ideal shape and size to accommodate the needs of a primary school in the 21st century. Because of this, over the past ten years, both schools have engaged in some ambitious and transformatory building projects. We have learned from these experiences that the drain on our energy and time and funds, as well as the disruption caused by the building work itself, are quickly forgotten and are far outweighed by the positive benefits of the new spaces and learning environments we create.

Our current hopes and plans are for us to be successful in securing, via the Diocese of Norwich and DfE funding, the support and finance to transform some remaining areas of Morley school. At Morley we need a new staff room that is:

- 1) On the ground floor.** This will mean that:
 - Outside of lesson times staff are more accessible to pupils if there is a problem that can't be resolved by our Midday Supervisors, or if they just need time for a quiet and confidential chat with their teacher.
 - Staff will be able to enjoy their break and lunchtimes but still be able to visually monitor some of the activity in school, when children are in the care of MSAs
 - Staff, visitors and pupils who are wheelchair users will be able to access a ground floor staff room
- 2) A bigger room:**
 - Our staff numbers at Morley have been gradually growing as our pupil numbers have risen. Staff are currently over-crowded in a rather dingy room and have little space in which to work away from noise and distractions. Staff well-being is incredibly important and, as a Church school federation, we want staff to feel valued. We also want to provide facilities that will attract and retain quality staff for the benefit of our children's education.



What else?

Any restructuring and building work at Morley will also give us the opportunity to make best use of any space that is freed up; this could include rethinking the areas set aside for: nurture, first aid, small group work, music tuition, meetings with parents and advisors.

What can you do to help?

Through securing grants from charitable organisations, we have previously raised tens of thousands of pounds to provide the 10% of building costs that CEVA schools are required to contribute to any agreed building project. We have also supplemented these grants with fund-raising activities such as: auctions, raffles, hamper squares, ticket-entry social events.

- Look out for up-coming events and fund-raising activities to help our build fund
- Come to the open garden at the Old Rectory, Morley on June 16th - hosted by Robert, our Chair of Governors – in aid of our building fund
- Let us know if you have expertise and enthusiasm for big-scale fund-raising and would like to help our planning of events.

Jane Coath

Local Authority Governor.

PARENTS FORUM

Since setting up the Parent Forum in May 2017, it has been a pleasure to meet parents every term for the purpose of making improvements to our schools.

Discussions have been thought provoking and, at times, lively! Overall, the meetings have enabled school and parents to forge a stronger link with each other and build on our community cohesion.

Some of the issues that we have addressed at the Forum have been:

- Road safety and parking
- Inclusion for pupils with special educational needs
- Homework
- School/home communications
- School lunches
- Pupil behaviour
- The rewards system
- Curriculum provision

Here are a few of the changes we have made, as a result of parents/carers sharing their feedback with us:

- Introduced 'Come Dine With Me' – giving parents the opportunity to come into school and share a lunch time with the children
- Organised open mornings so that parents can see what school life is like for their children
- Improved communications – parents made us aware that they preferred an email alert for the Friday newsletter, so this was reinstated
- Improved safety outside Morley Primary by establishing the cone barrier at drop off and pick up times
- Developed a new homework policy and leaflet for parents
- Changed our photographers to improve the quality and style of annual photographs

The Parent Forum has been a very positive form of communication with parents. We are able to consult

On our plans and ideas for developing our schools and we have received lots of positive comments, and gratitude for the hard work and effort that goes into running our two successful schools.

If you would like to play a greater part in the development of our schools or would like a chance to ask the Head Teacher questions about school life, you are very welcome to come along to Parent Forum meeting. The next meetings will be taking place on the following dates:

Tacolneston – Friday 7th June 9am – 10 am.

Morley - Friday 14th June 9am – 10 am.



Mrs L. Green,
Executive Headteacher.

Safety barrier - Tacolneston



A proposal for safety measures at the path from the school gate a few years ago was frustrated by administrative difficulties.

However, with an incident last year, together with road safety concerns through the village, with

particular reference to the school led to the need being reconsidered. On behalf of the Governing body, I undertook to progress the matter, but following discussion with the Chairman of the Parish Council, the Parish Council decided to commission the work through the Highway Authority and funded the work. Our thanks to both parties for a swift response.

John Hooper

Health & Safety Governor.

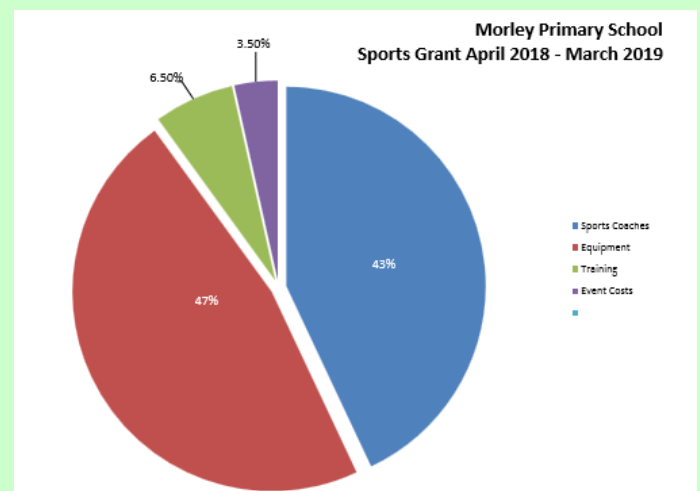
PE & Sports Premium

The Sports premium grant is money given to schools from the government to fund additional and sustainable improvement to the provision of PE and sport. It is for the benefit of primary-aged pupils to encourage them to develop healthy and active lifestyles.

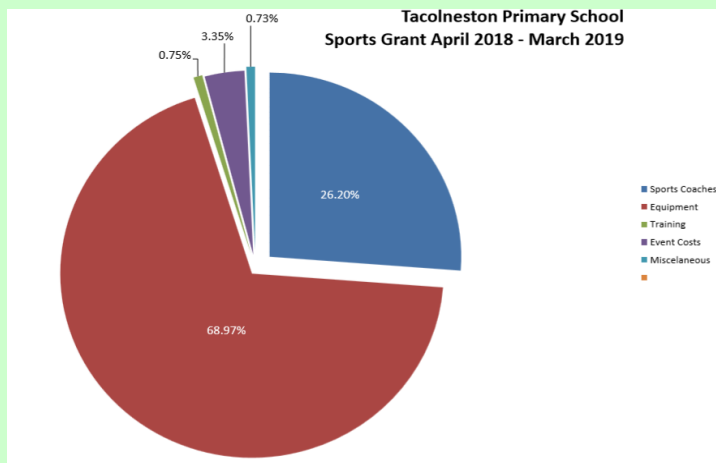
Below are the latest pie charts showing how our two schools have spent their sports premium funding over the last year from April 2018 – March 2019.



Morley CE VA Primary School



Tacolneston CE VA Primary School



At present we are looking to increase the number of school governors. If you or if you know of anyone who has some professional skills that they could bring to our governing body, please contact Mrs. Green or me (Robert Culyer) for more information to discuss what is involved.

Don't procrastinate, do something positive and do it now!



New Governors Needed



Ask a busy person.....

What is the old saying? Ask a busy person if you want a job done? Well if you are reading this as a parent/carer you are already there!! Bringing up a child can be one of the most time-consuming tasks that you will ever undertake but the rewards are great. The same can be said for being a school governor – the rewards can be great.

Knowing that you, as a school governor, have helped steer the school to ensure that all the children, and I mean all children from the most challenged to the brightest, attending our schools have achieved great advancements because of the policies that you have helped to shape can be very rewarding.

The governing body at present comes from all walks of life and are of all ages. We have full time working governors, part-time working governors, parent governors and governors who are grand parents of children at our schools.

The Current Governing Body



Robert Culyer.

Foundation Governor.
Chair of Full Governing Body and
Resources Committee.
Committee: Resources, Effectiveness, Ethos,
Pay and Head Teacher Performance Management
Monitoring Role: Arts.
Link Governor for Sycamore class.



Peter Jackson.

Co-opted Governor.
Vice chair of Full Governing Body.
Committee: Effectiveness and Ethos.
Monitoring Role: Humanities.
Link Governor for Kingfisher class.



Laura Green.

Executive Head Teacher.
Committee: Effectiveness, Ethos and
Resources.



Kate Easter.

Deputy Head Teacher.
Staff Governor.
Committee: Effectiveness.
Monitoring role: Curriculum and STEM.



Linda Bird.

Foundation governor.
Committee: Effectiveness and Ethos.



Emma Gooderham.

Parent Governor.
Committee: Resources.
Monitoring role: STEM and EYFS.
Link Governor for Sparrowhawks class.



John Hooper.

Foundation Governor.
Committee: Resources and Pay.
Monitoring role: Arts and Health & Safety.
Link governor for Eagles class.



Jane Coath.

Local Authority Governor.
Chair of Effectiveness Committee.
Committee: Effectiveness and Ethos.
Monitoring Role: SEND, Pupil Premium, Safeguarding and Humanities.
Link Governor for Rowan class.



Ruth Oyeniyi.

Foundation Governor.
Committee: Resources, Pay and Headteacher Performance Management.
Monitoring Role: Health and Wellbeing.
Link Governor for Chestnut class.



Roger Cordey.

Foundation Governor.
Committee: Ethos and Resources.
Monitoring role: Safeguarding.
Link governor for Robins class.



Colin Reed.

Bishop's Appointed Governor.
Chair of Ethos Committee.
Committee: Ethos.
Monitoring Role: Humanities.
Link Governor for Pine class.



Finally, we would like to say a very big thankyou to all the staff for their continued hard work and dedication over the past 12 months and we look forward to seeing you all at the Governors Thankyou Dinner in July.

We hope everyone has a wonderful and restful Summer.

