

# Tacolneston & Morley CE VA Primary Schools Federation



## Governor Newsletter

June 2021



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

Dear Parent/Carer

Following recent press reports, it has been quite apparent that we now see teachers and school support staff in a new light. The pandemic has made us all appreciate what a great job everyone, from our teachers to our lunch-time supervisors, does in our schools. As parents/carers, you might have found the recent situation of home-schooling challenging but please do not be over critical of yourselves. Remember that each and every one of you has done their best and, in life, that is all we can ask.

I am very proud to see how our schools have risen to the challenge of settling our children back into school. The schools have not only focused on your child's learning, but a great deal of thought has been put into your child's wellbeing. Being small schools, each and every one of your children gets the support and independent nurturing they need to ensure that they reach their full potential.

During the pandemic, I am pleased to say that the governing board has met on its scheduled dates, via Zoom, to ensure that we meet our statutory obligations with respect to running the schools. I will freely admit it has not been the same as meeting in person and I look forward to meeting up with my fellow governors in the not-too-distant future.

The governing board was pleased to welcome four new governors last term. Despite saying a fond farewell to Rev'd Colin Reed in the spring term, we still number 15 in total. It is not easy for all parents/carers to give up the time to be a governor, but you might be able to help support your child's school on the odd occasion with either a FOMPS or FOTS event. I believe that they are more than happy if you can volunteer to help at only the odd event. I am very thankful to FOMPS and FOTS who have continued to support our schools by providing additional funding to help with the purchase of supplementary books, as well as the exciting new play equipment that we see in our playgrounds.

I am pleased to say the new reception and nurture rooms at Morley are completed. These are a useful addition to ensure that your children get the best possible experience whilst at our schools. Finally, thank you to the parents/carers who have contacted me recently with praise for our schools. Please remember that I am always here if you ever need to discuss any issues relating to your child's schooling.

Robert Culyer

Chair of Governors

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An email was forwarded to all parents asking if anyone would like to become a governor. We are pleased to announce that Tracey, Arron, and Jane put themselves forward. Below is a little piece about each one. I am sure you will see them at some point in the near future,,,

Jane Morgan:

I have lived in Norfolk for most of my life, largely in and around Wymondham and I'm now retired (spending far too much time gardening and crafting). My career was spent in the world of education. I began teaching traditional needlework but then moved into the subject of food and nutrition, teaching in a variety of schools and to many age groups. I thoroughly enjoyed a number of years teaching food technology at Morley Primary. I truly believe that practical subjects have a lot to contribute to all areas of the curriculum. (I'm even married to a retired PE teacher). The last few years of my career were spent as an examinations officer, this largely removed me from the classroom but still allowed contact with pupils. I have always had an interest in pastoral education but when my son was diagnosed with autism my interest and knowledge of SEND education quickly developed alongside this area. My son was fortunate enough to attend Morley Primary where he and I both appreciated and valued the time spent in a small school environment. Although he is now an adult, I hope that my knowledge of education as a whole and SEND education will be of some value to the governing board. Being a governor will allow me to maintain my interest in education and hopefully help both schools to achieve their ambition.

Arron Easter:

I am a parent governor for both schools. I have two children currently at Tacolneston Primary School and have lived in the village for 10 years. I work full-time as a project director running large construction and infrastructure projects across the country, with overall responsibility for safety, design, programme, budget, and operations. In a previous role, I worked with Norfolk County Council, managing the framework for the new schools build programme in the region. I am currently training for my first `Coast to Coast` challenge in

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Scotland in September 2021. I am a keen cyclist and enjoy cycling every week. I have previously completed the London Marathon, Three Peaks Challenge and a triathlon. These events gave me the opportunity to raise money for local charities. As an avid traveller, I have visited Italy, Sri Lanka, Thailand, New Zealand, Australia, Singapore and Tunisia. I'm really looking forward to getting to know the team and finding out where I can help and add value.

Tracey Hemelge:

I moved to Norfolk from Berkshire, last summer, with my husband and five children. In the midst of the pandemic, with all its uncertainty, Laura Green was kind, supportive and reassuring, securing two of our girls' places at Tacolneston, for which we are extremely grateful. They settled quickly into what is clearly a warm and welcoming community and I knew then that I wanted to help the school in any way I could, moving forwards. As such, when I received the email regarding an appeal for new governors, I did not hesitate to respond; it felt absolutely the right thing to do. We are a Catholic family, and the Christian ethos of the school(s) is very important to me and an area in particular where I feel I can add some value.

I have a background in Early years, and childcare in general, and have been involved with youth events and young people through our church for many years. With my youngest daughter now at full time school in Year R (Wymondham College Prep) my son settled into Yr7 (Wymondham College) and my eldest daughter studying A levels at Attleborough Academy, I finally have the precious commodity of time on my hands which I plan to put to good use!

With a husband who has been shielding for most of the past year, guiding my family through this pandemic has been a great personal challenge and has forced me to reassess what really matters in life. As a family we have tried to derive joy from the simple things, to get closer to nature and embrace the slower pace of life that COVID has forced upon us. I do believe there are lessons that can be learnt from this undoubtedly torrid time.

Feeling positive about the future - I am genuinely excited to explore this beautiful county just as soon as it is allowed and most specially to work with you all, in helping to shape our school communities.

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As church schools, we endeavour to ensure that your children leave our schools with a sound moral code which will prepare them for later life. We are starting a new initiative in our schools which will apply to every child in the school from our current Reception pupils through to our Year 6 pupils. When your child is in Year 6, they will be given £25 to use in an act of random kindness. This might mean that they make a donation to a charity that is close to their heart or it might be to do with a charitable project that they are working on in school. You might like to discuss this with your child to see what they would like to do with their money. For example, they might have a relation who is suffering from dementia or know of someone who is suffering from cancer or some other illness and your child might wish to give their £25 to a charity that supports that particular area. It is hoped that this experience will lead to them writing a short piece about why they have chosen their charity and how it made them feel to be able to support someone less fortunate than themselves.

Please be assured that the funding for this initiative has not come out of school funds but is funded by the governing body. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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Chair of Governors

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Parents/carers at Morley School will have noticed the completion of a new extension. We seem to play ping pong between our two schools with building projects! Last time it was an extension on Tacolneston School which resulted in the stunning new classroom for Kingfisher class. It is very satisfying for us, as governors, to see a development completed and new facilities for the benefit of our children added to our schools. The project at Morley

School not only provides visitors with a welcoming reception but we also have the addition of much needed nurture and meeting rooms. We are pleased to say that on Friday July 2<sup>nd</sup> we have the Bishop of Thetford coming to bless our new building. Parents from both schools are welcome to come along.

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And it's Goodbye from me.....

Apologies for stealing a line from the “Two Ronnies” but I thought it was quite appropriate.

After serving as a governor for Tacolneston and Morley schools for the past 10 years, I have decided to take a break and step down. When I joined as a governor on the Tacolneston governing body it was in the early stages of a “soft partnership” with Morley school. Since then, it has been quite an eventful journey. With the exception of my very first year as a governor, I have been either Chair or Vice Chair of Governors and would like to think therefore that I have had some small degree of influence over the development of our schools. We have formed a strong Federation of our two schools, successfully navigated through Ofsted and SIAMS inspections and improved the physical presence and appearance of both schools through excellent new builds.

I have had the good fortune to have worked with two head teachers, a number of terrific governors, and of course our brilliant, dedicated staff. Without question however, what has given me the most joy and some wonderful memories are the times spent in school joining pupils in class, attending reading cafes, observing assemblies, rock concerts and plays, watching the annual sports day events or helping on a trip to Norwich Synagogue. I will never forget the challenge of building a fire engine out of a cardboard box, coloured paper, sticky tape and glue – great stuff! Our pupils (your children) put a smile on adult faces, never cease to amaze with their understanding, compassion and questions and provide a huge feeling of pride in them and our schools.

When I started as a governor my grandson (Josef) had just been born; he is now in Year 5 at Tacolneston. Where did those years go? My granddaughter (Thea) is now in Reception and will be working her way through the school just like her big brother. I know that they are in safe and caring hands.

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As I step down, I would like to thank all those individuals I have had the pleasure and joy of working with during the past 10 years, for their support, commitment and sense of humour.

I wish Laura and all her staff, together with Robert and the governing body, all the very best in the future and I know that our schools will continue to develop and provide a safe and nurturing place for our children.

Very best wishes for the future.

Peter Jackson

....and finally

It has been a challenging year for all, and we would like to thank the parents, carers and the school staff for their continued commitment and support. Mostly though, we thank all our wonderful children. It has been lovely for them to be able to return to school, spend time with their school friends and teachers and to see their happy, smiling faces. Every day is a joy.

As we ease back into normality, it is important that we still fully support our children and their families, so - please - if you have any worries or concerns, do contact your school. We are all here to help.

We hope you have a wonderful Summer ....

The Governing Team