

ST. IPPOLYTS CE (AIDED) PRIMARY SCHOOL

GOVERNING BODY

**Ashbrook Lane, St Ippolyts
Hitchin, Herts SG4 7QB**



ANNUAL REPORT

2014 - 2015

CHAIR'S REPORT

2014 - 2015

Another school year is coming to an end. This has been a long and challenging year for the school, the introduction of the new National Curriculum; the system of assessment throughout the school has been changed (but still the school had to deal with the old curriculum and old system of assessing for Years 2 and 6); there has been the introduction of the new SEN Code of Practice and all that that entails; we had a SIAMS inspection, which is always a robust and rigorous inspection; we have successfully recruited a new Inclusion Co-ordinator, a Site Manager, and we have increased the number of Teaching Assistants so that each class has its own designated TA; we have ventured into sponsorship with Satchells; we have reviewed and revised our Constitution in line with government requirements; and we have consulted on and reviewed our Admissions Policy.

There have been developments to the school site. There is the barrier which is proving to be very effective in preventing visitors from driving down onto the site. The bins have been relocated to the top of the drive in a smart new bin store. Pavements and kerbs have been repaired. Class 2 have a new window which enables the teacher to see the children in the outside play area. The play area has been re-surfaced and the fencing by the steps replaced. The two bell towers on the old building have been repaired. The school hall floor has been renovated. Tom Williams has very kindly put in a permissive path between the church and the churchyard and this will make it much safer for the children when they have to walk to the school playing field.

All this has been carried out whilst delivering and “ensuring that each child has the best possible education within the context of a caring Christian community”, providing curriculum enrichment and varied experiences and opportunities for the children. These include trips, visitors, residential trips, Science Days, Arts Days, music evening – the list is endless. The school’s website “gallery” shows it all.

I would like to thank all the staff for their continued hard work and enthusiasm and for making the school the very special place it is, where every child is valued and nurtured.

I would like to convey our thanks to the PTA for working so hard to provide some of those “extra” opportunities for the children.

And, lastly, the Governors – thank you for all your hard work and support. They are all volunteers and their time and support is really appreciated.

Jane Thake
Chair of Governors

WHO ARE THE GOVERNORS?

Name	Type of governor	Until
Jane Thake Chair	Diocesan Foundation	31.08.18
Helen MacInnes Vice Chair	Diocesan Foundation	31.03.16
Revd Ann Pollington	Incumbent	
Trevor Smith	PCC Foundation	07.02.19
Carol Scott	Local Authority	31.08.18
Jill Eaton	PCC Foundation	07.02.19
Stephen Rule	PCC Foundation	31.01.17
Martin Stevenson	Parent	07.02.19
Dee Soden	PCC Foundation	07.02.19
Rachel Peddie	Headteacher	
Gayle Stewart	Staff	31.08.17
Kerry Ingle	Staff	31.08.17
Clerk to the Governors	Jackie Trenear	

The total number of governors is 12 and our constitution determines the make up of the Governing Body. The constitution has been reviewed and revised in line with government policy and the new constitution will come into effect on 31.08.15

The Chairman and the Clerk can both be contacted via the school office.

YOUR GOVERNING BODY AND WHAT THEY DO

The role of the governors is to set strategic direction, to hold the school leaders to account for improving performance and to make sure that money is well spent. They advise and support the Headteacher and staff in their task of meeting the educational and social needs of all the children in school. As a voluntary aided school, the governors are responsible for the whole school building, (interior and exterior). The responsibilities of the school governors are all collective and would be impossible to fulfil without the willing co-operation of all the people who are concerned with the school.

The Governing body meets twice per term. Much of the work of the governors is carried out by committee. These are: Finance and Personnel, Admissions, Premises, and Teaching, Learning and Curriculum. The committees meet throughout the year

As a voluntary aided school, the governors are responsible for Admissions, Health and Safety, Religious Education and Collective Worship policies.

The Governors support the school in many ways: assisting at special events such as Arts Days, school trips, cookery lessons, attending assemblies, School Council, PTA events, and providing some support in the classroom.

FINANCE AND PERSONNEL REPORT

The budget is set each year in April and is approved by the Governors. During the year the committee monitors the accounts and looks at expenditure against budget, and look into any variances. When allocating funds consideration is given to the School Development Plan and its priorities. The school's budget share is allocated by the local authority and is determined by a formula which is based mainly on the number of pupils. It includes an allocation for SEN (special educational needs). The budget share, together with the carry forward from the previous year gives us our total budget.

The budget share for 2014-2015 was approximately £600,000. About 80% of this covers total staffing costs (teaching, support, administration, and site staff). The remainder covers premises, maintenance, running costs, equipment and resources. Careful monitoring ensures that the best possible use is made of funds available.

The Personnel duties of the committee include ensuring that the school's performance management policy is upheld and procedures followed, staffing is reviewed and recruitment where necessary is carried out, and relevant policies are kept under review.

This year has seen the recruitment of several members of staff; an EYFS/KS1 Leader and teacher for Class 1, part time teacher for Class 2, Inclusion Coordinator (InCo), 3 part time Teaching Assistants and a Site Manager. At a time when many schools are facing a recruitment crisis, we are very fortunate to have a full, experienced staff team in place.

Jane Thake
Chair of Finance and Personnel

PREMISES

The Premises Committee oversees the condition of the school buildings and grounds and is responsible for Health and Safety systems such as the fire alarm system etc.

We help determine development, refurbishment and maintenance programmes along with reacting to contingency issues ie property damage/power plant breakdowns.

During the past year, projects have included the installation of a safety barrier, repair and re-sanding of the hall floor, relocation of the bin store, bell tower repairs and the appointment of a new Site Manager.

Steve Rule
Chair of Premises Committee

ADMISSIONS

As in previous years, it is the Admissions Committee's responsibility to ensure that our Admissions Policy is correctly administered and although the process is centralised through the Local Authority, as a Church of England Voluntary Aided school, we are the admitting authority. The committee also deals with any appeals that may occur.

During the past year, we entered into a consultation exercise to change how some of the geographical area within our current catchment area is prioritised. This consultation involved a great deal of work by some of the committee members, and after due consultation with all the necessary organisations and councils, the new Admissions policy has been ratified and will take effect from September 2015 for admissions 2016 -17.

Revd A Pollington
Chair of Admission Committee

TEACHING, LEARNING AND CURRICULUM

This committee meets once per term to discuss all aspects of teaching, learning and curriculum. Committee members make regular visits into school to learn about all areas of the curriculum throughout the school. Reports are made to the governors. SEN within the school is closely monitored with regular reports. Presentations are made to the committee to make them aware of any new developments. This year the committee has focussed on the requirements of the new national curriculum and the implications for assessment without 'levels'.

Carol Scott
Chair of TLC Committee

HEADTEACHER'S REPORT 2014 – 2015

Autumn 2014 saw the introduction of a number of new national initiatives: the new National Curriculum, new SEN Code of Practice, and new arrangements for assessment following the removal of levels; teachers have been very busy implementing the many changes these have brought. It has been a very busy year as ever!

September saw us welcoming 20 new children into our school community, along with their new teacher, Miss Ingle, who joined the St Ippolyts team as a Senior Leader, overseeing the learning of all the younger pupils in school in Early Years and Key Stage One. We also welcomed Mrs Witt who joined us to work in the school office.

During the autumn term we held 'Friendship Week' which incorporated lots of work around bullying, particularly the role of the bystander. We had a visit from storytelling company, Gripping Yarns, who gave us a very thought-provoking drama performance entitled 'Standing By' to illustrate this message.

Family Week took place in October; this is a lovely opportunity for a parent or relative to spend time in class getting to see first-hand the type of activities the children do on a daily basis. It is always well supported and is fast becoming a favourite feature of the school calendar. Class 3 spent a fantastic day at The Living Rainforest in Berkshire in October for their Geography topic and we held our annual Harvest Festival, supporting the Bishop of St Albans' Harvest Appeal.

Throughout the autumn we spent a lot of time in school thinking about and commemorating the First World War centenary. Every child in school made a poppy for class wreaths that were taken to Church on Remembrance Day. The school choir gave a very moving performance of a specially commissioned song entitled 'We will remember them' at the war memorial. That week also saw our Year 6 children visit the Poppy Factory in Richmond, a very interesting day where they got the chance to make poppies and wreaths with the people who work there.



Class 4 had a wonderful trip to Sky Studios in November where they experienced being news reporters and journalists. They prepared news reports about endangered animals and we saw their very professional footage in the Class 4 assembly!



There were also a number of sporting events across the autumn term, not forgetting our annual Christmas celebrations including the Class 1 Nativity, Carol Service, Christmas Dinner and class parties. The school choir also visited local nursing homes again to sing carols for the residents.

In the spring we welcomed two new members of staff, Mrs Crawley as Inclusion Coordinator and Mrs Nichols as Class 2 teacher, both have been fabulous additions to our team here. Our popular Arts Days were held in January, this year on the theme of China. As part of the workshops, children participated in traditional Chinese lion and dragon dancing and tried martial arts, thanks to the expertise of NAMA. The arts days were filled with a huge range of activities, a riot of colour and excitement, leading to a beautiful exhibition in the main foyer.



This year the school choir also took part once again in 'Young Voices' at the O2 Arena. They formed part of a massed choir of over 7000 children from across the South East – a fabulous experience for all.

In February the school underwent its SIAMS Inspection (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) and we were delighted with our report that graded us Outstanding in every category; this is a short extract:

- *The school's distinctively Christian family atmosphere has a significant impact on pupils' high achievement and progress.*
- *There is a strong link between the newly introduced Christian Values Education Programme and pupils' attendance and exemplary behaviour.*
- *The inclusive, holistic and high quality teaching, which is supported by Christian values, enables all pupils to achieve to the best of their abilities*
- *The high quality displays reflect the value put on the pupils and create an inspirational learning environment in which pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development can flourish.*



March always seems to be a very busy month at St Ippolyts and this year was no exception. It included World Book Day, a visit from Owl Time, Red Nose Day, hatching chicks through the Living Eggs programme (including the return of the popular Chick Cam!), a solar eclipse and two fantastic Science Days where children tried their hand at all manner of scientific skills working in small groups across the school.

The spring term ended with our annual Easter Service which is always a moving experience as children process through the different 'Stations of the Cross' around the school and village.

After Easter we welcomed three new Teaching Assistants to our team: Mrs Shipp, Mrs Gemmell and Ms Marinho. This has enabled us to increase the number of support hours for every class which is fantastic. Children in Year 6 took their 'SATs' in May and although we do not have the results yet, we expect them to have done very well as they had worked SO hard all year.



Our Sports Day underwent a transformation this year thanks to the hard work and vision of Mrs Hoar and Mr Jefferies. Children of all ages participated in a wide range of track and field athletics events, accumulating points for their team. The new format meant that the children were fully participating throughout the afternoon. The winning team this year was Team Wembley and they were awarded the smart new sports day trophy, adorned with blue ribbons.

Class 1 spent an enjoyable time at Willows Farm in May and learned lots about the different animals. As with all the classes when they go out of school on trips, their behaviour and enthusiasm was amazing!

The children in the Young Worship group organised a very successful Bring and Buy Sale in response to the terrible earthquake in Nepal. The whole school community got behind them and they raised a fantastic total to donate to the earthquake appeal. Closer to home we continue to support the Hitchin Food Bank and national annual charity days for Children in Need, Red Nose Day and Guide Dogs.

The summer also saw the launch of our 'Early Bird Club'; a much needed and long overdue before-school childcare service, daily from 8am. This is proving to be a popular initiative for working parents and interest is growing markedly. The children have a wide range of activities on offer such as table tennis, craft activities, ball games, construction kits, puzzles and even parachute games! We are really pleased with how the club is going so far and have received very positive feedback from families who have used it.



Year 5 and 6 went on their residential school journey to PGL Barton Hall in Devon in June. We had glorious summer weather and over the course of the weekend they did a huge range of activities and outdoor pursuits. School Journey is a highlight of the school year for the children in Years 5 and 6; it is wonderful to see them try out new things, learn to be independent and grow in confidence over the course of four days.

Other trips in the summer have included Class 2 to Mountfitchet Castle, Class 3 to Celtic Harmony and Class 4 to the Thames Barrier.

This year the children have also been fortunate to be invited to a number of events at nearby Princess Helena College: a choir workshop with composer, Rufus Frowde, a street dancing and cheerleading session, a Maths 'Happy Puzzle' Day and a Pentathlon competition. All of these are offered free of charge enabling our children to take part for the small cost of coach travel; we are very grateful to PHC for their generosity.



Classes 3-5 are currently busy preparing for their annual drama production, this year 'Pirates of the Curry Bean' and I have no doubt that it will once again be a fantastic two evenings of entertainment for parents and families. This will be closely followed by the usual end of term celebrations and events for Year 6 as they prepare to move on to their secondary schools.

This year we have also been fortunate once again to have a willing band of parent helpers: gardening, cooking, arts days, school trips, hearing readers and so much more. Your help is so valuable to us and we are very grateful for you giving up your time.

We are especially indebted to the volunteers on our PTA who work tirelessly throughout the year to organise fundraising events and activities; this year has seen them introduce some fantastic new events – the family Treasure Hunt, Camp Out weekends, 5K Family Fun Run, Groovy Movers dance sessions and cake decorating classes, which have all been great successes. Alongside these are the familiar favourites of Christmas and Summer Fairs, craft afternoons, movie and munch, book fairs, discos and cake days to name a few.



The funds raised by the PTA go directly to enhance the opportunities for all the children in school and we are so grateful for their hard work.

This year alone they have funded the Gripping Yarns storyteller, Christmas disco for the children's parties, Chinese Arts Days lion dancing and martial arts workshops, 'Mad Science' visit, Living Eggs project, new reading books for Key Stage One as well as termly donations to each class for new resources for the classrooms.



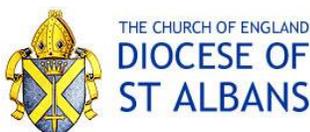
If you have never got involved with the PTA before but could spare a couple of hours a month, we would really love you to come along as many hands really do make lighter work!

As we approach the end of term I would like to say a big thank you to our wonderful staff here at St Ippolyts. They work so hard to give all pupils here the very best opportunities and always go the extra mile. This year has been particularly challenging with all the new changes and approaches to embed, but as ever they have given their all every step of the way and I am so very grateful for their enthusiasm, professionalism and commitment to the children of St Ippolyts.

Enjoy the summer break, and we look forward to seeing you back in September for another busy year! Our love, prayers and best wishes go with the Year 6's as they make the big move to their secondary schools – good luck Year 6, come back and tell us how you are getting on!

R Peddie

Mrs RE Peddie
Headteacher



2014 KEY STAGE TWO ASSESSMENT RESULTS

READING	GRAMMAR PUNCTUATION & SPELLING	MATHS
194.5% Level 4 and above as follows:	77% Level 4 and above as follows:	94.5% Level 4 and above as follows:
11.2% Level 4	15.9% Level 4	44.6% Level 4
77.8% Level 5	55.6% Level 5	44.4% Level 5
5.5% Level 6	5.5% Level 6	5.5% Level 6

These tables show the percentage of children achieving each level in 2014, compare to national end of key stage 2 teacher assessment levels and test results for 2013.

The total number of eligible children is 18

Figures may not total 100 per cent because of rounding

TEACHER ASSESSMENTS: % at each level							
	W	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6
ENGLISH	0	0	0	6	33	61	0
<i>National data</i>	1	1	2	10	48	37	1
MATHS	0	0	0	6	50	39	6
<i>National data</i>	1	0	2	10	45	36	6
SCIENCE	0	0	0	0	56	44	0
<i>National data</i>	1	0	2	10	50	38	0

TEST RESULTS % at each level					
	Below L3	3	4	5	6
GPS (grammar punctuation & spelling)	0	22	17	56	6
<i>National data</i>	3	20	26	46	2
READING	0	6	11	78	6
<i>National data</i>	3	8	41	44	0
MATHS	0	6	50	39	6
<i>National data</i>	3	11	44	35	7

2014 KEY STAGE ONE ASSESSMENT RESULTS

Cohort size 19

%	Level 2 and above	Level 3
READING	100	31.6
<i>National data</i>	<i>90.0</i>	<i>31.0</i>
WRITING	100.0	21.1
<i>National data</i>	<i>86.0</i>	<i>16.0</i>
MATHS	100.0	15.8
<i>National data</i>	<i>92.0</i>	<i>24.0</i>

ATTENDANCE DATA

The minimum expectation for attendance is 95%, for individual pupils and for the whole school.

Even if attendance sounds relatively high, it still represents significant absence from school. For example:

Attendance of 85% = 50 absences = 25 full days = 5 weeks off school = approx half a term

Whole School Attendance over the last five years:		Attendance 2014 - 2015 by year group		Whole school unauthorised absence (predominantly term time holiday)	
2014 – 2015	97.2%	YR:	97.8%	2014 – 2015	0.3%
2013 – 2014	97.8%	Y1:	97.4%	2013 – 2014	0.3%
2012 – 2013	97.3%	Y2:	97.6%	2012 – 2013	0.3%
2011 – 2012	96.9%	Y3:	95.9%	2011 – 2012	0.5%
2010 – 2011	96.4%	Y4:	98.3%	2010 – 2011	0.4%
		Y5:	96.3%		
		Y6:	97.8%		