

ST. IPPOLYTS CE (AIDED) PRIMARY SCHOOL

GOVERNING BODY

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



ANNUAL REPORT

2015 - 2016

CHAIR'S REPORT 2015 - 2016

St Ippolyts School is a very vibrant, busy place. The School continues to promote an exciting learning environment with an interesting and creative curriculum. The children are given many and varied opportunities. These include workshops, visits, school trips etc. School trips have included educational visits to the Discovery Story Centre, the Natural History Museum at Tring, Woolgrove School's outdoor learning environment and there is the annual residential trip for the older children to PGL. This term has also seen the whole school theatre trip to see 'Joseph and his Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat' at Milton Keynes, a fantastic experience enjoyed by all, made all the more special because it was the whole school together as one unit.

There have been numerous workshops for music, dance, sport, art and science. Luke Temple, the author, visited the school and worked with the children. The choir sang at Reverend Ann's leaving service and also took part with the Hertfordshire schools at the Royal Albert Hall. They make their annual visits to the local nursing homes at Christmas.

Anyone who has visited the school, will have seen the marvellous examples of work that the Arts and Science days produce, the effort that everyone puts into the World Book Day and the annual school production. The school website provides a wonderful gallery of pictures of these events.

The school continues to deliver the explicit Values education programme, based on a half termly focus value. Each value is linked to the curriculum, worship, a biblical text and where possible to a world-wide issue. The inclusive, holistic and high quality teaching, which is underpinned by Christian values, enables all pupils to achieve to the best of their ability.

I would like to thank all the staff for their continued hard work, enthusiasm and commitment. The Governors wish Mrs Pepper and Mrs Wilson a well-earned, happy retirement – they have given many years of service to the school.

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

We look forward to welcoming the new vicar, the Reverend Virginia Dear, who, as the incumbent, will join the Governing Body.

We wish all the Year 6 leavers, a successful and happy transfer to secondary school. Keep up the good work and make sure you take advantage of the opportunities that are made available to you.

Looking forward, there are more challenges facing the school – not least the proposed academisation of all schools and the Neighbourhood Plan, which with its proposed numbers of houses to be built, will have an impact on the school.

And, lastly, my fellow Governors – I would like to thank you all for your support and dedication to the School. It 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	31.03.20
Vacancy	Incumbent	
Trevor Smith	PCC Foundation	07.02.19
Carol Scott	PCC Foundation	01.02.20
Jill Eaton	PCC Foundation	07.02.19
Liz Luxton	Local Authority	01.01.20
Lawrence Foster	Parent	01.02.20
Martin Stevenson	Parent	07.02.19
Dee Soden	PCC Foundation	07.02.19
Rachel Peddie	Headteacher	
Gayle Stewart	Staff	31.08.17
Clerk to the Governors	Clare Kendle	

Our constitution determines the make up of the Governing Body. The constitution was revised in line with government policy and came into effect on 31.08.15

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

Introducing new governors

Lawrence Foster

I am a Hertfordshire thoroughbred having grown up in Welwyn and attended John Henry Newman School. Having been a Hitchin resident for 13 years, I took up a post as an Assistant Head Teacher at The Priory School three years ago. This job and my first 6 months in post as a parent governor at St Ippolyts give me a great insight into the excellent education our young people receive locally. I have two young daughters, the eldest of whom is just finishing Year 1 and loves her school. My interests include gardening, squash, golf and scuba diving.

Liz Luxton

I have lived in the village for 20 years and both my sons (now 27 and 31) attended St Ippolyts Primary School. I have worked in education finance for 16 years, firstly for Hertfordshire County Council and currently at Birchwood High School in Bishops Stortford. In my role as Business Manager, I sit on the senior leadership team and have responsibility for all financial matters, catering, premises, health and safety, risk management and community engagement. My main areas of expertise are in budgeting, accounts monitoring and long term forecasting.

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 2015-2016 was approximately £650,000. 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 recent changes to teachers' pay and the move to performance related pay, the phased introduction of the national living wage from 2016, the fairer funding formula and continuing Government austerity measures will exert pressures on school budgets.

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 July sees the retirement of one teacher, Mrs Wilson and the Finance Secretary, Mrs Pepper. Recruitment has taken place and their replacements will commence in September. At a time when many schools are facing a recruitment crisis, we are fortunate to have a full, staff team in place.

Jane Thake
Chair of Finance and Personnel

PREMISES

Some parts of our school building reach the grand old age of 170 next year and it is only by the hard work of our site staff and management that keeps the school fabric fit for purpose.

The Premises Committee of the Governing Body support the Head and Site Manager in this important task by conducting safety walk-rounds, inspections and help with the myriad documentation that is required to prove we are safeguarding our pupils in a safe and fit for purpose environment. Committee members undertake Health and Safety and fire training to equip them for their role.

This year the school has seen improvements in our disabled access provision, new blinds for the school hall, a new awning for Class 2's outdoor play area, repairs to PE apparatus and many other enhancements too numerous to mention. Annual inspections of fire alarms and equipment are carried out as well as fire drills and play equipment checks. Next year we are looking to enhance the operation of the central heating system and look at even more energy efficient lighting systems. Our Site Manager, Mr Rule and his small team should be thanked for the wonderful work they do all year round.

Trevor Smith
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.

This year we admitted an additional ten children into the Reception class at the request of the Local Authority to meet local demand for places. This is known as a 'bulge year' and is a one-off increase.

Jane Thake
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 2015 - 2016

September 2015 saw us welcome 30 new children into Reception ten more than our usual admission number of 20. This is known as a 'bulge year' and was put into place because the Local Authority needed to expand some schools to meet demand for school places across Hitchin town and villages. From September 2016 we return to our usual admission number. Our new pupils settled quickly and soon were confident and secure with life as part of the St Ippolyts school family.

This year has been another year of challenges, particularly in Years 2 and 6 who have had to undertake the new style end of key stage tests (SATs) for the first time. It's fair to say that throughout the year, the information and guidance from government has been fraught with difficulty; for example the materials produced to show schools what the 'expected standard' in writing looks like, were not released until February half term – half way through the school year. Nevertheless, our children have been extremely well guided and supported throughout by our amazing teachers who have worked tirelessly to make sure that they achieve their very best.

So much emphasis is put on 'SATs' but it is important that we remember these tests are only a very small piece of the wonderfully complex jigsaw that makes up an individual child. A test can only provide a brief snapshot of what a child can do on that particular day at that particular moment in time.

We know the curriculum standards have been raised significantly, we know the tests are much harder than they have ever been before. It is for this very reason that at St Ippolyts we remain fully committed, now more than ever, to provide a broad and balanced primary education: with a vibrant curriculum, an array of enrichment activities, trips, visitors, sporting opportunities, exposure to the expressive arts and most of all, developing personal and interpersonal skills to equip our young people for their life ahead.

Usually for the Headteacher's part of the Governor's Report, I work through the school year to try and give an overview of all that has happened since September. This time I have handed it over to the Year 6 children to report on – after all, how better to describe our year than through the eyes of a child?



Buddying

In September, we had 30 new 4 year olds join our school. Each year 6 was entrusted to pair up with one of the younger ones. Buddying helps the new children to learn their way around school, feel safe and to know they always have someone to turn to. It also helps them to face the daunting process of going to the dining hall and onto the playground to make new friends. Eventually they become very independent and do things for themselves.

Lily



Family week

This year St Ippolyts held their family week at the beginning of the year in October. Each day, a class at a time, a parent or member of their family is invited to come in to experience what their children are learning in school. In class five parents and visitors even get to experience what it feels like to sit SATs, not as scary once you know how. Other classes did maths and science investigations, quizzes, PE and other fun activities ... we hope you join in next year.

Estelle

Luke Temple visit



In October we were visited once again by the fantastic and funny author, Luke Temple. He visited our school and informed us of his latest series of stories. These were: Felix Dashwood and the Traitors Treasure, The Mutating Mansion and Traitors Revenge. A trio of people were asked to come up to the front and join in with acting. The following day he returned with books and posters ready to be signed. Every class had the chance to speak to him and his Dad. We are all waiting in anticipation for his next best sellers to hit the shelves.

Katelyn W

Charity

St Ippolyts have taken pride in supporting many charities throughout the year, such as: contributions to Hitchin Foodbank, dressing in red for Red Nose day, the biggest outdoor aerobics session for Sports Relief, Children in Need; where we all brought in a teddy to school for a day - even the teachers. We cannot forget the work and love for our very own trainee Guide Dog Honey. Mrs Blencowe one of our teaching assistants volunteers to train guide dogs and we are lucky to share in the experience. With the money we have raised in the past we have sponsored three dogs of our own as a school. They are Gismo, Herbie and Cally. Sadly, Honey has now left our school to move onto her next step in her training to becoming a fully qualified Guide Dog. This year one of our pupils in Class 3 was extremely generous and brave in supporting The Little Princess Trust. She decided to cut off her ponytail and donate her hair so that a wig could be made for children suffering with cancer.

Theo and Kaitlin M H



Values

At St Ippolyts we take great pride in our Christian values. Over this year we have been introduced to various values in our collective worship. We have been shown various scenarios and taught about many values. We have learnt about perseverance, respect, forgiveness and generosity to name but a few. We have learnt the importance of these values and how they benefit us in school and in the wider community. They also help us now and in the future to develop the skills which we will need in our lives. An award is given each week to children who have been exceptional in demonstrating the chosen value.

Ruby

Services in St Ippolyts Church

Every year at St Ippolyts School we have 3 different services. There is a Harvest Festival service in the Autumn, a Christmas service and then an Easter service in Spring.

For Harvest Festival all the children bring in a gift of food which is donated to the local community.

For the Christmas service the pupils in Class 2 act out the Christmas story and the rest of the school tell the story in songs and words. It is a very special service and the church is always full of families.

During the Easter service each class tells part of the Easter story. The story is told at different places around school and finishes inside church. The service is both sad and happy as we reflect on Jesus' death and resurrection.

Harry

Christmas at St Ippolyts

As we care for the local community the school choir visited Wymondley and Sloe Hill Nursing homes to sing carols. It is an event that we dearly love as we bring joy to others. Once our school Christmas tree is put up and decorated with all the beautifully decorated baubles, handwritten by Mrs Peddie, Christmas begins. This was followed by our annual Christmas dinner. Mrs Harrington-Smith serves a traditional dinner of turkey, Brussels sprouts, roast vegetables and of course Christmas pudding. Year 6 are given the responsibility to invite school governors to join us and be a host for the event. The following day each class had a party at the end of term which we thoroughly enjoyed with the Kool Kids disco thanks to the PTA. All children bring in a donation of party food and drink. Christmas is a great and memorable time of year at our school.



Jessie

Young Worship



In Young Worship we reflect on our values and take time to think about the individual meaning of each value and how it is special to us. Mrs Peddie does Collective Worships along with all the other teachers. Being part of this spectacular group we have the chance to set up and express our thoughts towards Jesus, God and our values by leading and preparing our own Collective Worship.

This includes creating prayers and developing our knowledge on the Bible. We all get to contribute our ideas and work together so everything is fair. The children in Young Worship

took part in a Diocesan event which was an art competition with the theme of compassion. As St Ippolyts is part of the Diocese of St Albans we had the opportunity to participate. By splitting Young Worship into three groups we produced three wonderful and individual pieces of artwork depicting compassion.

Lauren

Friendship Week

Friendship week is an incredibly entertaining and informative week for everyone! Earlier this year Mrs Nichols contributed in making Friendship Week 2016 come together once again.

The week was a lovely chance to contribute our thoughts towards friends and learn more about our values. We were also very lucky to have "Gripping Yarns" come into school and perform a very thought provoking performance. The week came to the end with the chance to make our very own Friendship quilt which was created in very many ways; some drew, some wrote their names and the upper years sewed their thoughts on Friendship. After a few days the quilt was all sewn together into a stunning finished blanket. It was a great success.

Annabel

Arts Days



For a number of years now, across two special days, everyone's creativity has the chance to shine when we have Arts Days. This year was no different...

With the theme of Africa, everyone was buzzing to go to the activities which were full of: paint, materials, markers, and lots of FUN. The range of activities covered was huge. On the third day we have a huge celebration assembly where everyone showcases their artwork. The assembly is normally filled with dancers/performances which they learn as a class. Once again the Arts Days was a huge success, thank you to all the teachers /PTA who organised and participated in activities. **Lucy**

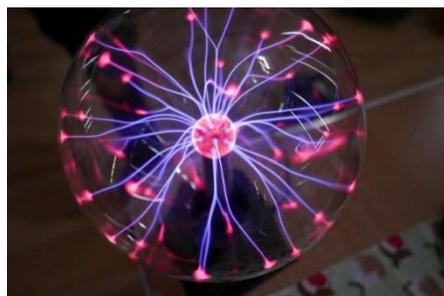
The Royal Albert Hall

In March, 20 dedicated members of our school choir performed at The Royal Albert Hall for the Hertfordshire Music Festival alongside Mrs Stewart and Mrs Archer. It was a breath-taking experience; a once in a lifetime opportunity. James Mayhew (local artist from Letchworth) sketched and illustrated the songs as we sang them. His amazing artwork was then projected onto a massive screen located above the grand, historic organ.

Alice



Science Days



March was a manic month but filled with an amazing two days of non-stop science. We experienced a variety of fun and creative activities both in school and from visiting scientists. Visitors this year included: Boffin Pan from Science Boffins, Mr Foster (one of our Governors and the Assistant Head at The Priory) and Mr Box (GSK). Mr Foster let year five and six experience what science will be like at secondary school. The two days are mainly hands on and very practical giving us the opportunity to conduct various experiments.

Macsen



World Book Day

In March, St Ippolyts school had a fantastic experience on World Book Day. This time the theme was Peter Pan and all the teachers were dressed up as Peter Pan characters. Even Honey the dog was dressed up as Nana! All the pupils were dressed up as a book character of their choice. Some of our school governors gave prizes and for the best costume.

Bilal

Phase

Phase is a group of representatives from churches in Hitchin who come into schools to help year 6 children with transition to secondary school. They also came at Christmas to talk about the nativity and at Easter to talk about the resurrection. In June they came to deliver their final talk about moving to secondary school and we had the opportunity to express any concerns we may have about the transition. We were also given some information and advice on about what to expect. Phase are an amazing group of people and we feel we are all ready to take the next step confidently in our learning.

Joshua

Living Eggs

As part of "Science Week" at St Ippolyts we were lucky enough to take part in the Living Eggs project. We were able to watch chicks hatch. When wonderful chicks hatch out of the egg, they are so cute. The chicks stay in an incubator for about 2 days. We waited anxiously for the eggs to hatch on Chick Cam. Chick Cam is on the school website so you can stay tuned to what is going on at home or even on holiday! Everyone in school agreed that it was a wonderful and exciting experience to be able to watch.

Anna



SATs

In May Year 6 and 2 children are required to take SATs to ascertain whether they are working to the expected level for their age group. Year 6 children went through a week of tests. Early every morning we did start the day with a delicious SATs breakfast, which prepared us for the day of tests ahead. The children in year 2 worked very hard and enjoyed completing their "quizzes".

Edward B



PGL

Every year, Year groups five and six get the chance to go away for a weekend residential. This year they went to Osmington Bay. All the children had a brilliant time and made the teachers very proud with their excellent behaviour and their "have a go" attitude. They had the opportunity to do lots of fun things: giant swing, dragon boating, a beach walk, abseiling and climbing and much more. We also ate some delicious food, sang songs and played lots of fun games. A great time was had by all!

Kaitlin G

Sports Events

Children across the school have taken part in a range of sports this year. The pupils have participated in local and sometimes national events, with great success. Tournaments have ranged from athletics to football and for the first time ever this year we took part in water sports (dragon and bell boating)

Sports day was another great success taking place in the summer term. Thankfully the weather was on our side and the day ran very smoothly. All 4 teams: Wimbledon, Wembley, Twickenham and Lords took part and enjoyed the team spirit throughout the afternoon. At the end toddlers and parents displayed some fantastic and quite competitive running skills. The victorious team this year once again lifting the cup was ...Wembley.

Jay



Productions and Nativity

This year at St Ippolyts as always we have our annual production soon approaching and our Class 1 nativity play at Christmas. The Nativity is performed by Class one and parents and other visitors are invited to watch. The school production this year is Cinderella Rockerfella. Children are encouraged to sing solos and to develop their acting talent. The production is performed by Key stage 2 and this year promises to be amazing. **Kierat**

Play-leaders

Pupils from class 5 have been busy working as play-leaders. Each week 6 children are chosen as play-leaders. The main responsibility of the role is to help pupils to use the playground equipment properly and safely. They also help and encourage the younger children to play individually and in groups and they play a variety of different games with them. This scheme has been a great success and made playtime much more fun for everyone.

Holly



Theatre Trip “Joseph and His Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat”

This year, a whole school trip was organised to Milton Keynes Theatre, where we watched Joseph and His Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat. Each class had the opportunity to explore and understand this particular story from the Old Testament before seeing it. The production starred X-Factor winner, Joe McElderry, as Joseph. Overall the show was fun, exciting, and above all entertaining to all who watched it. The music was composed by the famous Andrew Lloyd Webber. The actors and actresses engaged and captivated the audience throughout. Overall, a once in lifetime experience not to be forgotten and thank you to the PTA and Mrs Peddie for arranging this.

Mark

I am sure you will agree that the children have done a fantastic job of giving a flavour of our school year!

As we approach the end of term I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to you all; we are so fortunate to have such a committed and supportive parent body at St Ippolyts.

Thank you also to our fantastic Governing Body, especially the Chair, Mrs Jane Thake, for their tireless work throughout the year on school leadership matters.

Our PTA – an amazing bunch of committed parents and families who work so hard throughout the year organising events and activities, not just to raise money, but also to provide opportunities for families and children to build relationships socially.

Finally an enormous thank you to our amazing staff team of teachers and support staff: they are truly outstanding and I am privileged to have them on the ‘St Ipps team’!

This year I would like to pay a special mention to two longstanding members of staff who are taking early retirement at the end of term: Mrs Wilson, Class 2 teacher, who has worked with us since 2010 and Mrs Pepper who has been our Finance Secretary for the last 16 years! We will miss them both very much but wish them both well in their new adventures.

So the cycle continues....looking ahead to next year we are busy preparing to say goodbye to one group of children at the end of their primary years and getting ready to welcome new ones at the beginning. We also look forward to welcoming two new teachers in September, Miss Walker and Miss Leake, and the much anticipated arrival of Mrs Hoar’s baby!

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, you have been quite simply, sensational!!

RPeddie

**Mrs RE Peddie
Headteac**



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
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ST ALBANS**

2015 KEY STAGE TWO (Y6) ASSESSMENT RESULTS

READING	WRITING	MATHS	GRAMMAR PUNCTUATION & SPELLING
87.4% L4+	100% L4+	87.5% L4+	87.5% L4+
62.5% L5+	62.5% L5+	54.2% L5+	70.8% L5+
0% L6	25.0% L6	16.7% L6	4.2% L6

These tables show the percentage of children achieving each level in 2015, compared to national end of key stage 2 teacher assessment levels and test results

The total number of eligible children is 24

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	4	21	54	21
<i>National data</i>	1	1	2	9	47	39	2
MATHS	0	0	0	8	13	50	29
<i>National data</i>	1	0	2	9	44	36	8
SCIENCE	0	0	0	8	25	67	0
<i>National data</i>	1	0	2	9	49	38	0

TEST RESULTS % at each level					
	Below L3	3	4	5	6
GPS (grammar punctuation & spelling)	0	13	17	67	4
<i>National data</i>	3	18	24	49	4
READING	4	8	25	63	0
<i>National data</i>	3	6	39	49	0
MATHS	0	13	33	38	17
<i>National data</i>	3	10	44	33	9

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

Attendance falling below 90% is classed as a 'persistent absentee' and is flagged by the Local Authority Attendance Improvement Officer.

Whole School Attendance over the last six years:		Attendance 2015 - 2016 by year group	Whole school unauthorised absence (predominantly term time holiday)	
2015 – 2016	97.5%	YR: 96.7%	2015 – 2016	0.3%
2014 – 2015	97.2%	Y1: 98.3%	2014 – 2015	0.3%
2013 – 2014	97.8%	Y2: 97.8%	2013 – 2014	0.3%
2012 – 2013	97.3%	Y3: 98.2%	2012 – 2013	0.3%
2011 – 2012	96.9%	Y4: 95.4%	2011 – 2012	0.5%
2010 – 2011	96.4%	Y5: 97.9%	2010 – 2011	0.4%
		Y6: 97.3%		