

CHJS Governors Gazette

March 2016
Issue 6



Welcome back to our Summer term

This year has been a busy one so far, with lots of activities and changes taking place in the school.

We are at the end of the school's financial year and now we have next year's budget to approve for submission to County. The budget is always very detailed and tightly managed, and congratulations must go to Ms Elbourne Cload and her leadership team for managing the funding in such a responsible and effective manner.

Governors have reviewed children's progress based on the school's mid-year assessments. Assessment this year has involved more work than usual because Government policy removed the attainment 'levels' we had become familiar with; the school has, however, worked hard to devise a new system of assessment which measures progress effectively. We were pleased to hear that the system has been checked by moderation against other local schools and by external educational specialists. The figures themselves are looking good so far; children and staff have clearly been working hard. Year 6 in particular have also used focused maths and English sessions to help all the children achieve their best.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite any parent who may be thinking of becoming a parent governor, or would just like to know more about how the Governing Body works to make contact with myself via the school office. We would welcome visits to our meetings so that parents can get a better understanding of what is covered in our meetings and how decisions are made and implemented.

Best wishes for the Summer term.

Wendy Cooper

Recent Parent Survey and Actions

We would like to commend the leadership team, teachers and staff to their swift follow up on the recent parent survey.

A number of workshops and meetings on working Closely with Parents, Homework, Maths and English. We are sure that the parents who attend would agree, that they were well prepared and some very active discussion around the topics was held. We would like to encourage you to support the school by attending these workshops and meetings as another way of sharing information and supporting your child's learning experience.

Royal Albert Hall Visit

What better place would you want to be on a Sunday afternoon than at the Royal Albert Hall listening to a host of angels singing beautiful tunes to amazing music. On Sunday 13 March family members and friends who were lucky enough to get tickets did just that.

CHJS did us proud, 20 young Yr 6 children singing their hearts out on stage. Such an amazing experience, and a rare opportunity to perform in a renowned venue, and be part of a larger group of children across the County.

Thank you to Miss Kropman for her dedication and passion in teaching the songs, correcting mistakes along the way, and encouraging our children to follow their dreams.

Pupil Premium Award Winner

We are very proud of the school for achieving a Commendation in Hertfordshire at the Pupil Premium Awards. This is a measure of the outstanding progress the children have made as well as the teachers and school efforts throughout the year.

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Governor Visits

As part of the responsibility of being a governor is to support and understanding the workings of the school. One way, we gather this knowledge is via School visits.

In some recent visits undertaken by the Governors we have 'discovered' some fantastic aspects of the school that we would like to share with the School Community.

Gold Kite Award

This is not just any old school in St Albans – this is Cunningham Hill Juniors!

As one of the parent governors linked to school sports I have learnt a lot over the last few months. I knew our school was great, but was pleasantly surprised to find out how our school is unique to other schools locally; allowing our children to have a fantastic and fruitful experience, I wanted to share some of what I have learnt about sports with you ...let's celebrate!

CHJs has been awarded the Sainsbury's School Games GOLD kite award! Not bronze or silver ...Yes Gold! The award scheme, launched in 2012, is presented to schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community. This award only lasts for one year so work is ongoing and time consuming,....fingers crossed we will continue with GOLD! You can look our school up on the website: www.yourschoolgames.com and see what has been going on! Come and see the plaque on our sports noticeboard in the main corridor!

Here are a few examples of the most recent events:

The whole school were involved in an indoor athletics house competition, which led to 28 of the more talented athletes entering a school games competition at Herts University. Last week, 12 children represented the school at St Columbus in the U11 interschool cross country, including 2 children from year 4! The school netball and football teams have gone from strength to strength and produced some very good performances in inter school competitions. This week the netball teams drew and won their fixture with St Albans Girls High School and the boys' football team reached the semi-finals of the district Penalty Prize Competition. To name only a few! CHJ offer many inter and intra school sports events throughout the term, all displayed on the school blog and Facebook page.

This term, an international hockey coach delivered some workshops and the whole school is now involved in our Skip 2 B Fit programme culminating in a sponsored event for Sport Relief and school funds. Next term, the curriculum will be further enriched as our Year 6's will have a 2 session course in canoeing at the Lee Valley Olympic Water Sports Centre, our Year 4's will have workshops from a leading dance teacher and our Year 3's will participate in a tennis workshop with coaches from Batchwood Tennis Centre.

The children continue to enjoy the variety of lunchtime and afterschool clubs of which 13 involve sport or physical activity of some kind. This is far more than other schools and delivered by professional coaches and teachers in their own time.

The school have been using a national orienteering coach to kick start the orienteering strand of Outdoor and Adventurous Activities. Year 5 and 6 began the initiative and, next term, Year 3 and 4 will participate in further workshops in their Chill Out sessions.

Credit to be given to Mrs Beattie for her ongoing work, with the support of all the CHJ staff over and above their call of duty, on behalf of all the governors we thank the staff for all their hard work....Only at CHJS!!

By Rachel Wilson