

## HPP Governors' Update June 2020

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### *HJS & HISN wider opening; what we've learned, what we know and what happens next*

Hello everyone,

We hope you are all well and meeting the everyday challenges this extraordinary time has brought us all. In this update from the HPP Board of Governors we aim to provide you with important information about:

- The HPP Governing Board's role during this extraordinary time
- The initial outcome of opening to all pupils in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 & Year 6
- What happens next?

As you are no doubt aware HPP schools opened to all Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils on Monday 1st June. Since lockdown our schools have continued to support the children of critical workers and children who have been identified as vulnerable. Support for both groups of children has continued throughout the school holidays, thanks to a huge effort on the part of school staff. For the majority of children not learning on school premises, teachers and support staff have adapted quickly to support pupils remotely with new online learning platforms and regular phone calls to all parents, guardians and carers with children at the school.

It's true to say HPP schools have never closed and as governors we have sought to support education in HPP schools in any way we can. More than ever we have been reminded of the hard work and dedication of the team who provide high quality education for Hampton's primary and nursery aged children.

Thanks to all our volunteers, including governors, parents, guardians and carers, who contribute their personal time to help support the Hampton Primary Partnership.

### **The HPP Governing Board Role**

During this extraordinary time the Board's role has been to understand the steps the executive leadership has taken to ensure the school has been well placed to:

- Support the children of key workers and children who need additional support
- Provide the education to children learning remotely, usually at home

- Provide a safe school environment for children studying in the school buildings and how the buildings have been adapted to meet current UK government guidelines

Last week the Board met to review the risk assessment carried out by the executive leadership team to assess and mitigate the risks of the wider school opening. Amongst other things they have considered the whole school premises, school staff well being and continued remote education for children who remain at home for the time being.

## Opening to all pupils in Nursery Reception, Year 1 & Year 6

As mentioned elsewhere in this update there has been a huge amount of impressive work by teachers and staff to provide a safe learning environment for all pupils attending school premises. We are delighted to report that many more children are attending the schools and benefiting from the extra social interaction.

Feedback from parents and carers has been fantastic, it is much appreciated and is a testament to all the hard work that has come to fruition. The Partnership will continue to review the many safety measures in place to enable on site education, with a view to improving and adapting these measures as guidelines change and as we learn what works best.

## What Happens Next?

Even before the [UK Government's announcement](#) on Tuesday 9th July, based on our recent review of wider opening, it was clear that getting all children back into the school buildings before the end of the Summer Term would not be possible. Considering the current government Covid-19 guidelines and the extra space needed in school for the time being means wider opening will be limited to selected year groups at HISN, whilst at HJS will be able to invite back year 5 pupils on a part time basis. However we are hopeful that wider opening to all year groups will be possible in September, as UK government guidelines relax and HPP schools are able to adjust their use of space accordingly.

We understand that this will be disappointing to some parents and will provide further challenging times for us all. Considering the need for social distancing in our schools, to create one way systems, close some facilities, to maintain teaching bubbles and to continue to provide support to children of critical workers and vulnerable pupils it is the right decision. We will continue in our role as a critical friend of the school's executive leadership to ensure even wider school open happens when the balance of risk makes it the right thing to do.

In order to enable planning for the September return of pupils, the school will have an Inset Day on Friday July 17<sup>th</sup>. This inset day had been planned on May 22<sup>nd</sup> but did not go ahead

because the schools were open to critical worker pupils. The revised last day of the Summer Term will be Thursday July 16<sup>th</sup>.

You can find out more about HPP Governors and their roles on the schools' website [here](#). We also wanted to take this opportunity to thank three long-standing governors who will be stepping down at the end of this academic year. Their support, experience and commitment has been invaluable over the years. We wish Matt Beadell, Sarah Weinberg and Suzette Nicholson (who has been a governor for 15 years) all the very best.

## **Contacting HPP Governors**

We welcome any constructive feedback you may have for the governors. If you have any additional comments or questions that are not answered here, or by the linked online resources, you can contact the Governors of Hampton Primary Partnership via email to the Chair of Governors – [governorchair@hampton-jun.richmond.sch.uk](mailto:governorchair@hampton-jun.richmond.sch.uk)

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