



Moss Hey Primary School

Spring Term 2017 | Governor Newsletter | Issue no. 3

Welcome to the Spring Term Governor Newsletter

We hope everyone has enjoyed the term and is looking forward to Easter, the lighter nights and, fingers crossed, some sunshine! In this newsletter, we tell you more about why Governors have been lobbying local government, we share our findings from this term's focus on computing and we update you on a very insightful walk-about with Clive Taylor, Senior School Improvement Adviser.

LOBBYING FOR FAIRER FUNDING

This term, the Governing Body has been lobbying at local and national level to highlight the inequalities in the proposed National Funding Formula. Here, we talk to **Ruth Smith**, Chair of Moss Hey's Governing Body to find out more.



Tell us about the lobbying activity the Governors have been involved in? Throughout the term, representatives from the Governing Body have met with our local MP, Mary Robinson, and local councillors, we have also written to key senior ministers in parliament. We were keen to express our concerns and raise awareness about the effect of the proposed National Funding Formula on schools like Moss Hey. As everyone will have seen in the press lately, there is a shortage of funding generally in education and in schools across the country. It's important our voice is heard so the real impact of the formula on educating our children is understood.

Why is the National Funding Formula important? The National Funding Formula will determine what funding comes into the school. It is being introduced in order to address historic unfair funding which has seen schools receive very different levels of funding depending on their postcode. However, Moss Hey along with many others, do not feel that the proposed formula corrects the issue and instead introduces new problems, which will impact on our school and our children's education. This is at a time when schools are having to bear the burden of increasing costs, all of which must be paid for from the budget allocated under the formula.

What next? The consultation has now closed, so we now await the government's decision on whether they will press ahead with the proposals regardless of the objections across the country, or whether they will seek to change the formula. We have made proposals at a local level, which could benefit Moss Hey financially and we continue to liaise with councillors and our MP on how these might be implemented.

In the meantime, we as Governors will continue to strive to get the best for all the children at Moss Hey. We have a fantastic and committed team of staff, the quality of teaching and learning at Moss Hey is excellent and we will continue to support the team on the brilliant job they do every day. Thank you also to parents for your support on this matter and for writing to Mary Robinson and completing the online consultation.

POST-IT NOTE

Governors accompanied Clive Taylor, Senior School Improvement Adviser, on a walk-about of the school earlier this term. Providing a 360-degree view, we visited every class as Clive talked us through the many elements that combine in a school to create excellent teaching and learning. From the interactivity and relevance of classroom wall displays to the layout of the classroom, from content and marking in workbooks to the questions asked by teachers to deepen pupil understanding, it was incredibly insightful to hear Clive's external perspective. Clive was incredibly complementary about Moss Hey on every level, feedback we were delighted to receive from someone with such vast experience of raising standards in education achievement.

ALGORITHMS, SQUEEBLES & SONIC PI Spring Term Focus on Computing



Each term, the Governing Body takes part in a Term Focus, which aims to develop Governor awareness and understanding of specific areas of teaching, learning and the curriculum. This term, Governors set out to explore and find out more about how Moss Hey manages and delivers the Computing curriculum in school.

We began the focus with meeting the school's Learning Councillors, who told us about the different ways they use computing in class. It was fantastic to hear the pupils talk so enthusiastically about the software that they use in their learning and talk about using programs such as Audacity, Scratch, Squeebles, MyMaths and iMovies.

It was also very reassuring to hear pupils talk confidently about internet safety and the 'Zip it, Flag it, Block it' approach that we use here at Moss Hey to keep safe online. Lots of great examples were given by children about why and when they would use this, which was really encouraging to hear.

Next, we talked with Mike Ramsey, Computing Subject Leader, and Emma Chorlton, who has expert knowledge of computing, to find out more about the scheme of work and how Computing is planned and delivered.

We learnt that:

-50% of learning in Computing is focused towards programming and algorithms. For example, Year 6, have been making their own computer games and Sonic Pi is being used in Enrichment Afternoons, which gives pupils the opportunity to explore music and programming.

-E-safety is taught across year groups and progresses as children develop and grow. Online safety is also reinforced through posters displayed around the school.

-Computing is cross-curricular. All children are taught about Computing in the Computer Suite but learning takes place in the classroom as well. For example, PowerPoint presentations are used across subjects, Word is used for English and Excel is used for maths, calculations and charts.

Finally to round off the session, Governors attended the Keeping Safe Online workshop delivered by Stockport Council, which provided useful insight into why online safety is needed and what precautions parents can take to keep their children safe.

THANK YOU TO THE PTA who this term funded 30 tablets, 15 headphones, a charging trolley and the MyMaths Subscription.



We wish everyone in the Moss Hey family a very Happy Easter.



Through sharing a snapshot of our involvement at the school via this newsletter each term, we hope to give parents' insight into the role and work of Moss Hey's Governing Body. If there are any questions or topics you'd like to be covered in the Spring issue, please email admin@mosshey.stockport.sch.uk