



Moss Hey Primary School

Autumn Term 2017 | Governor Newsletter | Issue no. 5

Welcome to the Autumn Term Governor Newsletter

With the Christmas Fair, village lights switch-on, Christmas nativities, music concert and Carol service, the festive season has well and truly arrived at Moss Hey, and we wish everyone a very Merry Christmas! In this newsletter we will review the Autumn term, share our learning from a brilliant development session on the curriculum, introduce our new parent governor - Rupert Kitzinger - and take the opportunity to turn the spotlight on sport and P.E.

ENAGAGE, INSPIRE & CHALLENGE

Focus on the curriculum with Rhiannon Hale

“The best thing about Moss Hey is that the teachers take time to really get to know the children; they know their personality traits, their educational strengths and their interests. This then allows us to tailor and personalise our curriculum to ensure that every child is engaged, inspired and challenged” **Rhiannon Hale**



This term, governors set out to find out more about the curriculum delivered at Moss Hey. The Department for Education states that through following the National Curriculum every school must aim to “*provide pupils with the essential knowledge that they need to be educated citizens.*” But what does this mean at Moss Hey? Through a fascinating session, led by Deputy Head, Rhiannon Hale, governors explored this question. Here’s what we learnt.

- The National Curriculum is very broad, and in order to make sure we are meeting all of our children’s needs, we break down each subject into units and skills, which teachers manage through Curriculum Maps and Skills Ladders.
- The Curriculum Map is unique to Moss Hey. Once developed and in place at the start of each academic year, teachers use the Map as a planning and delivery tool. Easy to use, the Map works as a tracking tool and a go-to overview to understand which units are being taught in which term.
- The Curriculum Map for every year is available for parents to view on the web-site, and as an accessible document, gives parents’ insight into how the curriculum is being brought to life in the classroom.
- The Skills Ladder is an invaluable tool for every teacher as it is used to plan each individual lesson plan. It is used to ensure that there is a progression of skills within each subject throughout the whole school from Reception to Year 6.
- At Moss Hey, we believe depth of learning is hard to achieve if too many units are covered. Children are far more likely to master skills and retain information if fewer units are covered but in more depth.
- Our curriculum is skills based, which means the curriculum can be tailored to children’s individual interests. This is crucial as a higher-level of engagement leads to a higher-level of attainment.
- In Maths, we use the White Rose Scheme to deliver the curriculum. It is used to embed a mastery approach to mathematics teaching, aiming to improve children’s understanding, enjoyment and attainment in the subject.
- The Moss Hey Writing Pathway is an integral part of our curriculum as it maps out the units that we need to cover over the year in writing and ensures we include all Non-fiction and Narrative units.
- We are always looking for ways to improve at Moss Hey. We build a picture of performance through regular book looks, staff voice and pupil voice sessions, and data analysis. We also believe in the impact of subject leadership, and every half term, Subject Leaders meet teachers to give constructive feedback on how their subject is being taught to the individual year groups.

Thank you to Mrs. Hale for taking the time to talk to governors this term and for working hard to develop the curriculum at Moss Hey. To summarise in her words, “*The main aim of our curriculum design is to move children towards a deep level of understanding in every subject area so that they will be able to use and apply skills and knowledge in different areas of their life. I have loved developing the curriculum over the past few years and hearing the children talk with passion and excitement about what they have achieved at Moss Hey fills me with pride*”



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ALL ABOUT SPORT

Q&A with Rupert Kitzinger

“An active lifestyle goes hand in hand with an active mind - the more we promote physical literacy and activity the more our pupils will benefit in the classrooms.” We catch up with new parent governor, Rupert Kitzinger, and take the opportunity to turn the spotlight on sport.



1) Tell us about what your job involves in the P.E. Department at Cheadle Hulme School.

I am responsible for Senior Cricket at the school and in particular the 1st XI. I also teach on a daily basis and coach cricket all year round to boys and girls throughout the school. My principle responsibilities can be quite demanding as my players have to juggle their workload for public exams and I like to help them manage their time and priorities. I like to see myself as more than a cricket coach to them all, as the years they spend at CHS are some of the most magical times in their lives and I think it is important to enjoy them as well as work hard.

2) Have you always been passionate about sport?

The short answer is ‘yes’. I love the challenges that different sports can create in teams and individuals. Personally, I love to take on these challenges - bowling the last over in a tight game, taking the last gasp penalty to win, a long cycling sportive or running a marathon.

3) Why is P.E. an important part of the curriculum?

Sport is a vehicle that teaches us so many great values in life. As Nelson Mandela said *"Sport has the power to change the world and the power to inspire. It unites people in a way that little else does and speaks to youth in a language they understand. Sport can create hope where once there was only despair"*. PE offers the first exciting steps on this journey of sporting discovery by building the foundations of not only motor skills but enjoyment, resilience and healthy living. The world we

live in now is so different to how we grew up and we have to roll with the times and adapt. We are much more sedentary than even 10 years ago and PE helps develop a hunger for exercise which we so badly need.

4) How would you like to see sport being developed as a subject at Moss Hey?

I believe that an active lifestyle goes hand in hand with an active mind and the more we promote physical literacy and activity the more our pupils will benefit in the classroom. The issue to tackle is the lack of time in the day for our amazing staff to cover everything they need to! I've seen case studies where schools who collectively jog/walk 1-2kms every morning have seen huge increases in productivity in the classroom. Whilst this may be extreme I'd like to help explore what options we have at Moss Hey to help our staff and pupils (and parents!?).

5) What's your tip for keeping the family active over Christmas?

There is nothing wrong with a little indulgence over the festive period but it is also a great time to get out and about. I like to set aside some time to make sure I work off the extra pig in blanket at the gym or by going for a run. We also try and go for more family walks together. We are so lucky to live where we do with the Peak District so close and it is a fab time of year to try and remind ourselves of this by spending more time exploring.

DID YOU KNOW?

Five facts about Sport at Moss Hey

1. All schools receive additional P.E. and sport government funding, which has made a real difference to the quality of sport delivered at Moss Hey. In 2015/16, we received funding of £8860.
2. We have eight Year 6 Sports Ambassadors, who are responsible for raising the profile of sport at Moss Hey.
3. We have football and netball teams, and our pupils have played competitively in many other sports.
4. The Primary Sport Fund pays for our lunchtime sports coaches. Once introduced, along with increased levels of activity, focus and enjoyment, we immediately noticed improved behaviour in the playground.
5. All sports news and results are communicated weekly in the Moss Hey Messenger.



We wish everyone in the Moss Hey family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Here's to an amazing 2018!

