

Holt Community Primary School
Ysgol Gynradd Holt

Governors' Annual Report for Parents



September 2020 – July 2021

Dear Parents

We, the governing body, are delighted to present you with this report which outlines the activities, progress and developments Holt CP School has made during this unprecedented year.

Understandably, the well-being of pupils in these times has been foremost in our minds. This, along with the preparation for the new Curriculum for Wales and ensuring the financial stability have been our priorities and are detailed within this annual report.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Headteacher and all the staff for their continued professionalism and dedication to the pupils of this lovely school.

We would also like to thank the hardworking members of Friends of Holt School who work tirelessly to raise funds. Finally, we would like to thank the parents for their continued support in these very challenging times.

In the opinion of the governing body, Holt CP School provides a wonderful learning environment with a great future, and we look forward to helping provide direction and support to your school during the next academic year.

The Governing Body
Holt CP School

HOLT CP GOVERNING BODY

The Governing body in the 20-21 academic year was:-

Type of Governor	Name	Appointed until
Chair of Governors & LA	Mr John Roberts	Sept 2023
Vice Chair & Local Authority Governor	Mrs Gill Jones	June 2021
Parent Governors	Mrs Claudine Moreton	June 2023
	Mrs Mia Munnerley	Nov 2024
	Mrs Lindsey Jones	Jan 2025
Non-teaching Staff Governor	Mrs Carole Route	Nov 2023
Teacher Governor	Mrs Karen Hancock	Sept 2021
Head Teacher	Mrs Melanie Sturt	Appointed Sept 2015
Community Governors	Dr Helen McCarthy	Dec 2024
	Mrs Tina Edwards	Nov 2024
	Vacancy for 3 rd Community Governor	
Clerk	Mr Sire Barlow	

MEETINGS:

The Governing body meets 6 times during the year, ie once every half term. The meetings were held on:-

21st September 2020
16th November 2020
18th January 2021
15th March 2021
17th May 2021
21st June 2021

Meetings during the year were held either in person, virtually or a combination of both, depending on the requirements relating to the pandemic at the time of the meeting.

CLASSES AND STAFF AT THE START OF THE AUTUMN TERM 2020:

There were 69 pupils at the start of the year, one of which was the nursery pupil, and was part-time.

Year	Staff	Number of pupils
Nursery/ Reception	Mrs Sturt and with	1
	Miss Jones in the afternoon	7
Years 1 and 2	Miss Jones	9
		12
Years 3 and 4	Mrs Hughes	6
	Mrs Piggott	12
Years 5 and 6	Mrs Hancock	13
	Mrs Cowley	9

TEACHING ASSISTANTS

Mrs Julie Furber	Nursery and Reception support
Mrs Sandra Roberts	Year 1 and 2 support
Mrs Carole Route	Year 3 and 4 support
Mrs Alison Jones	Year 5 and 6 support
Miss Kate Strudwick	1:1 support year 5 pupil

NON-TEACHING STAFF

Secretary	Miss Alison Jones (until April 2021)
Caretaker and Cleaner	Mrs Katrina Threadgold Mrs Jeanette Jones
Cook	Mrs Abbey Skeoch
Assistant Cook	Mrs Linzi Godwin
Senior Mid-day Supervisor	Mrs Alison Jones
Mid-day Supervisor	Mrs Carole Route

PREMISES AND ORGANISATION

Nursery and Reception pupils were taught by Mrs Sturt and supported by Mrs Furber. Nursery children attended morning sessions only.

Miss Jones taught Year 1 and Year 2 supported by Mrs Roberts. Reception joined this class during some sessions through their topic work.

The Year 3 and 4 pupils were taught by Mrs Hughes three days per week and Mrs Piggott two days per week.

The Year 5 and 6 pupils were taught by Mrs. Hancock for three days and Mrs Cowley for two days per week. During Mrs Cowley's sabbatical, Mrs Hancock increased her hours and Mr Rawlinson was employed on a temporary basis.

Carole Route and Alison Jones worked as teaching assistants across the week supporting the Key Stage 2 learners.

Mrs Hancock provides learning support to a small number of children with additional learning needs one day per week. In addition, Carole Route and Alison Jones have been funded through the Covid 19 Accelerated Learning Grant since April 2021. This allows them to support less able/vulnerable learners in Key Stage Two for an additional four afternoons across the week.

SCHOOL DAY

Children are welcomed onto the premises from 8:45 in the morning with classes starting at 9am. Normally, classes would all finish at 3:15. However there was a staggered pick up between 3 and 3:15 pm as a result of the COVID requirement. Pupils were dropped off by the rear gates and picked up at the rear classroom doors. This allows for better social distancing and has worked well.

9:00 am	Session 1
10:30 am	Break Time
10:45 am	Session 2
12:00 noon	Lunchtime starts
1:00 pm	Lunchtime ends
1:00 pm	Session 3
2:00 pm	Session 4
3:15pm	School ends

BREAKFAST AND AFTER SCHOOL SESSIONS

When the school was open to the pupils, Cool Cats breakfast and afterschool sessions were available for pupils to provide wrap around care. However, as a result of COVID, demand fell as some parents were working from home.

Sessions take place in the mornings between 7:45 until 8:45 and after school from 3:15 until 5:15. In partnership with Holt Under 5s, wrap around care is also available for all nursery age pupils.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance has remained relatively stable over the past five years.

2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
94.0%	92.4%	94.3%	94.0%	95.6%

CURRICULUM

During the COVID 19 lockdown between December 2020 and February/March 2021 all staff delivered interactive blended learning sessions and 'Class Meets' using Microsoft Teams. Children participated well and these sessions were very well received by parents.

Wellbeing remains a key focus within the School Development Plan. Mrs Hughes appointed pupils as Wellbeing Ambassadors in the Summer Term 2021 for all year groups and has worked with the children to develop Wellbeing areas. Parents kindly donated resources to be used in these areas which the children can access at any time. The ambassadors promote wellbeing across the school and arrange for wellbeing activities to be planned into the calendar throughout the year.

SCHOOL SPORTS

Swimming sessions resumed for years 5 and 6 in the Summer Term. Pupils in Key Stage 2 benefitted from tennis and cricket coaching during this term. Parents were also able to attend both the successful school sports' day in June and the final of the tennis competition.

Partly in response to requests from parents, Pro-skills soccer sessions were available for Key stage 2 and 'A Star' sports for the foundation and Key stage 1 phases.

ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS

All children and young people are valued as individuals and their varying needs are dealt with sensitively and effectively. We believe that each child receives a broad, balanced and differentiated curriculum ensuring self-esteem and confidence are enhanced and a positive attitude is developed. Full details of the school's ALN policy can be requested from the school office.

TRANSFER TO HIGH SCHOOL

Staff prepare pupils well for the transition to high school. Pupils at our school are fortunate that there are several local high schools where they can continue their school career. In July 2021, pupils from Year 6 transferred to:-

SCHOOL	NUMBER
Darland, Rossett	3
Bishops' Heber, Malpas	6
St Josephs', Wrexham	1

SCHOOL LEAVERS/PRESENTATIONS

A much appreciated socially distanced school leavers' presentation was held towards the end of the summer term with parents able to attend. All pupils gave moving and very well prepared speeches.

EXTRA CURRICULA ACTIVITIES

1. MUSIC

Singing, guitar, piano and violin lessons were available to the school and delivered by the Music Cooperative.

2. SCHOOL VISITS

These were limited during the year because of the pandemic. However, Foundation Phase learners were able to attend a virtual 'Jambori'. All learners enjoyed a trip to the Welsh Mountain Zoo and pupils in Year 6 were able to have a very active and enjoyable day at Glan Llyn prior to their move to secondary schools.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

During the year, staff have been extremely active in maintaining their professional development. Priority areas for staff development this year were Additional Learning Needs, Blended Learning, Curriculum for Wales, Wellbeing and Mental Health and development of the Welsh Language.

ASSESSMENT

Comparative data has not been available during the pandemic. However, self-assessment shows the school has made substantial progress towards their targets of improving standards for more able learners and in reading and writing Welsh at key stage 2.

FINANCE

The school receives its funding from the LEA based on pupil numbers and it pays for the general running costs of the school. There have been challenges as a result in the decline in numbers, as is the case throughout the borough. Consequently, there were some reductions in staff costs through voluntary redundancies and some reduction in hours. This has resulted in the school now being on target to achieve a balanced budget by 2025 in line with the deficit plan agreed with the Local Authority.

The budget and outturn for the 2020-2021 financial year were:-

AREA	SCHOOL BUDGET	OUT-TURN
Employees	£420,235	£401,550
Premises	£31,261	£25,798
Supplies & Services	£18,258	£11,931
Education Support Services	£32,648	£32,698
Other Income	£85,912	£133,050
Contingency	£88,755	£0
Total Net Expenditure	£366,491	£377,684

COMMUNITY

The school is very proud of its links with the community although this has been limited this year due to the pandemic. A highlight was working with Holt Community Gardeners. Pupils were challenged to design a garden layout for the village's entry into Wales in Bloom. The winning entry was then used as a logo on all correspondence from the Community Gardeners, turned into a floral display and used on merchandise. All of the pupils' entries were displayed in the centre of the village. The school's artwork had a special mention in the Wales in Bloom report.

The pupils also raised money for Save the Children, prepared shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child, dressed in yellow for the Winston's Bereavement Charity and wore lots of socks for Downs Syndrome Awareness Day.

VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL

Again, visits were limited this year. However, PC Stuart was able to visit to deliver sessions on keeping safe on-line and general internet safety.