

# Hawthorn Community Primary School

Hawthorn Road  
Kettering  
Northants  
NN15 7HT

Tel: 01536 512204  
Fax: 01536 512468



Head Teacher: Julie Clubley  
Email: [head@hawthorn.northants-ecl.gov.uk](mailto:head@hawthorn.northants-ecl.gov.uk)  
Website: [www.hawthornprimarykettering.co.uk](http://www.hawthornprimarykettering.co.uk)

24<sup>th</sup> July 2019

## **Headteachers' Review – Summer 2019**

And so we come to the end of another year at Hawthorn – a year that has seen many changes! However, Hawthorn continues to be a happy place; a place where we are proud of the children, because the vast majority of them are caring, enthusiastic, well-motivated, well-behaved and responsible individuals. No matter what other changes may be introduced over the coming years I hope that this positivity of the children who attend the school will be something that always stays the same.

Probably the most significant change this year has been our joining Montsaye Community Learning Partnership in April, which has recently been rebranded as Pathfinder Schools. We hope that parents have not seen any major changes to the school since we became part of the Academy, as it was very important to everyone involved with the school that we were able to continue with the same values and ethos that we have always had. Two major changes that we have experienced are the amount of support that we have received on our school improvement journey and increased opportunities for both the children and staff to be involved in cross school collaboration. Already this year the staff have undertaken training and work moderation exercises with the other Academy schools and the children have been involved in a number of sporting activities including a year 6 sporting morning at Rothwell after SATS had been completed.

In September the organisation of the school will be changing to reflect current educational thinking, with the introduction of mixed age classes across the school. This was successfully trialled in key stage 1 this year and we are now extending this throughout key stage 2. The re-structuring of the school in this way will allow the staff to more effectively work as a team; allow a larger group of adults to target support where it is required for individual children; and help to encourage the children to learn from each other, with the aim of developing a more community-minded approach across the school. The response of both the children and staff during our recent transition day was extremely positive and we are all looking forward to the new academic year.

Although some things are changing, it is important that we maintain the traditional values and celebrations that are so much a part of Hawthorn. We have had another busy year on the performing arts front: with the usual Christmas festivities; May Day and Mid-Summer Dancing; and our end of year performances by Key



stage 1 and our year 6 children. Our KS2 choir has performed at many venues locally and was also invited to attend the 'Music for Youth' event in Birmingham once again; and this year our KS1 choir has also performed on a number of occasions including a visit to St Anne's Care Home. Our year 4 children had the opportunity to take part in a 10-week ukulele programme delivered by NMPAT where they learnt to play the ukelele.

On the sporting front, Hawthorn continues to successfully participate in as many Kettering School Sport partnership events as we can, ensuring that as many children as possible have the opportunity to experience sporting competitions against other schools. It is always lovely to hear about how well our children perform – and even when they are not winning the actual competitions, they all participate enthusiastically, showing great teamwork and a sense of fair play. It is always lovely to hear about how supportive of each other the children are and how keen they are to celebrate, not only their own successes but also the achievements of others.

The children continue to experience a broad and varied curriculum where there are opportunities for the children to experience excitement and inspirational teaching. We use a wide variety of opportunities, visits and visitors to support the children's learning. Hawthorn is a special place where children can thrive in a supportive and caring atmosphere, where the staff work hard to maintain the school ethos and provide opportunities for all children to be successful and reach their full potential.

Judgements about schools are often based on statistics and particularly about the results obtained by the children in their end of Key Stage SATs in English and Maths, rather than looking at the school experience as a whole. We are very proud of the results that our year 6 children achieved in their end of year SATs this year, as they have exceeded the national standards in several areas. We will of course continue to work hard to prepare the children in the best way that we can for their end of key stage SATs, but we are also mindful of the values that we hold dear, which are not so easily measured by statistics, but which we feel are equally as important. I know that our leaving year 6 children are more than ready for the next phase of their education, as they demonstrate not only an enthusiasm for learning, but also a very positive work ethic and have been wonderful role models for the rest of the children in the school. I am grateful for their contribution to Hawthorn over the last 7 years and I hope that they have some happy memories of their time spent at the school. We hope that they will come back to see us to tell us how they are getting on at their new schools.

During this year we have seen a number of staff changes and sadly at the end of this term we will be saying goodbye to some valued colleagues. Miss Osman, who has been a part of our Key Stage 1 team for the last three years, is unfortunately leaving us so that she can gain employment closer to her home in Leicester. Miss Osman joined us as an NQT and has worked hard to hone her teaching skills over the last few years. She has built strong relationships with the children in her class



and her calm and patient manner has enabled the children she has taught to develop a love for learning and an enjoyment of school. Miss Peden, who also began her teaching career as an NQT at Hawthorn, has been with us for two years, developing into a confident and enthusiastic teacher, but she now feels that she is ready to take on the new challenge of a larger school. We wish both of our leaving teachers well and hope that their experience at Hawthorn will stand them in good stead as they move on to the next stages of their careers.

Another member of the team who is leaving us this year is Mr Hall. His association with the school began as a pupil of the school when his father was the Headteacher. He returned to us as a teaching assistant before developing into his current role where he has been providing PPA cover for classes by covering p.e. lessons across the school. Over the years his enthusiasm for sport (and for Hawthorn) has ensured that the children of Hawthorn have received the very best sporting provision that we could offer – a remarkable feat considering the lack of facilities that we have for developing sport. He was largely responsible for us achieving the status of Kettering Sports School of the Year a few years ago, and it is largely down to him that so many children have had the opportunity to represent the school and compete in so many different sporting fixtures and opportunities. We wish him good luck in his new endeavours and hope that he has some happy memories of his long association with Hawthorn.

Finally, we are also sorry to lose Mrs Singodia, one of our SEN teaching assistants, who for the last 16 months she has worked tirelessly to support a pupil who arrived at our school unable to speak English and with some quite severe needs. With support from Mrs Singodia, we have seen this child develop into a happy and settled child who is now ready for the next stage of her education at a new school. We are very grateful for the expert care and support that Mrs Singodia has provided and would like to wish her good luck for the future.

I would like to finish this section of the annual review by thanking all of my colleagues for their on-going commitment and enthusiasm. Hawthorn continues to be a happy place to be and this is partly because of the team within it and their hard work and dedication to providing all of the children who attend the school with the best possible educational experience.

I am also grateful to the members of the Governing Body, who have continued to provide support and challenge to the school during our transition period from a Local Authority to a Pathfinder School. As a school, the governors, the school leadership team and the whole school staff have continued to work hard to develop and improve the school, and with the additional support and challenge that is now being provided through the Academy Trust, we are confident that we are well on the way to becoming what OFSTED would describe as a 'good' school.

Life at Hawthorn goes beyond the usual school day and our Breakfast, After School Club and Holiday Playscheme continues to provide 'wrap around care' for those parents who need it. I would like to thank Mrs O'Key, our Leader and all of her staff



for the hard work in the setting and for providing a valuable service for the parents of children in our school and in the wider community.

The 'Parents and Friends Association' have had another very busy year providing additional opportunities for the children such as fun nights and film evenings and making a valuable financial contribution to the school by allowing us to purchase those little extras that make the children's learning more memorable. This year thanks to their valuable support we have been able to purchase our new minibus which has allowed us to take the children off-site without the need to worry about transport. At the end of this year a number of the supporters of our PFA group will be leaving us as their children move on to secondary school, and if the group is to continue to be successful and provide much needed support for the school at a time when budgets are under so much pressure, it is important that new parents and friends step up to the mark to offer their time and support to the group. The PFA AGM will take place in school early in the new term and it would be lovely to see some new faces at the meeting to find out more about the group and how you can help to keep their valuable work going.

The Parent Forum Group is another group that would appreciate your support during the next academic year. They aim to meet on a termly basis, to support school improvement, not through fund-raising, but by giving up their time, enthusiasm and experience to promote the development of teaching and learning and to improve the educational experience for children at the school. This year their main focus has been their involvement in the consultation process before the school converted to Academy status. Again please look out for details of their next meeting in the new academic year.

In September we will be joined by 38 children in our two Reception classes and their Hawthorn journey will continue through until July 2026. I am sure that there will be many changes in education between now and then, but if Hawthorn can continue to produce children who are happy, well-motivated and enthusiastic in their learning, then we will have done our job well!

Finally, I would like to thank you once again for your continued support during this year. It is vital that a strong partnership exists between the school and the parent community so that we can work together towards the same goal – happy and successful children who achieve their full potential. Things will not always go smoothly, and there may be hiccups along the way, but I'm sure that if we work together then we can prepare our children for a happy and successful future.

I hope that the sun continues to shine on us during the break and that you enjoy a restful summer, and I look forward to welcoming most of you back in September, ready to begin another Hawthorn Year.



**Julie Clubley Headteacher**

