

**Kirk Fenton CE Primary School**  
**Faith in Ourselves, Hope for the Future, Love for Each Other**

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## **Governors Newsletter – July 2018**

As we reach this moment in the year again where our children are attending transition days, either into new classrooms to spend time with their new teachers, or onwards to their new secondary setting, it is inspiring to look back and reflect on all that we have achieved in the past academic year.

Transitions are definitely a key theme for Kirk Fenton this year: we welcomed our new Headteacher Mrs. Williams in January and celebrated this at a special Commissioning Service at St. Mary's Church in March. A wide range of people from across our community – parents, children, governors, staff, parishioners and local councillors, all came together to offer support and symbolic gifts. Representatives of the School Council presented little stones painted with “Faith, Hope and Love”, along with a blank heart-shaped stone to represent the new and exciting things happening at our school.

This July our school also makes the proactive transition to join the STAR Multi-Academy Trust (MAT). Progressing the strong relationships that we have already forged through the STAR Teaching School Alliance; formalising our working partnership with local primary schools, Sherburn High School and Tadcaster Grammar. This enables collaborative planning for school improvement and in this challenging time of managing reduced school budgets, it has a positive impact on our ability to commission services and secure best value for money. Through the sharing of our many skills and experiences, capitalising on the expertise of talented staff / governors and making the most of the capacity we have to support, help and improve learning and achievement.

This year staff have worked really hard with great energy and enthusiasm, collaborating together across the year groups to embed a cohesive and inclusive curriculum that reflects our ethos, values, key priorities and continued investment in Outdoor Learning. Children have enjoyed opportunities to enhance their learning with forest schools, both on-site and in the woods and work on ‘Food for Life’ has increased their understanding of where food comes from and healthy eating habits. EYFS visited a farm and Year 1 visited the Yorkshire Wildlife Park. Several enrichment activities and trips have taken place to: Skipton Castle, The National Coal Mining Museum, and Forensic Science days at both the local secondary schools. There has also been the great variety of sporting events, including dodge-ball, tri-golf, cricket, swimming gala, tennis, cricket, cross country running, basketball, bowling and multisport – to mention just a few!

The Compass Camp on-site residential for Y3/4 was held again in June, and our heartfelt thanks goes to all the staff and Friends who gave their time to make this event so successful and enjoyable for the children. The qualities of resilience, self-motivation and organisation are all encouraged, recognised and celebrated within school. This approach has been rewarded with incredibly positive impacts, nurturing a greater depth of active learning in core subject areas and developing rich understanding. With this ethos at the heart, it is enabling us to deliver on our fundamental school development plan aim: continual raising of standards. This impacts progress across the whole curriculum, building on the Growth Mindset approach, and embedding the Good Learning Characteristics, in the context of our core Christian values.

In addition, a very big thank you to the ‘Friends of Kirk Fenton’ who do amazing work to improve facilities and enhance resources; whilst encouraging community spirit and the links between school and home.

Our team of governors provide support to the school in a number of ways, using our different skills and experience from various backgrounds. We aim to provide effective support and challenge for school leaders, to confirm that the school’s performance is evaluated and continuously improves, to drive strategic direction and to ensure that the school rises to whatever new challenges come along! Most of all, as Governors we are here because we care for our school as an integral and important part of our local community and want it to succeed.

We wish you all a wonderful summer,

Joseph Miller and Heather Smith – Chair and Vice-Chair

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On behalf of the Full Governing Body of Kirk Fenton

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