

# Little Reddings Primary School

Headteacher: Miss Carly Simmonds

Harcourt Road  
Bushey  
Hertfordshire  
WD23 3PR



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## Weekly Newsletter – November 4<sup>th</sup> 2016

'Learning together, Respecting each other, Success for all'

### Weekly LRS Governors Focus

Over the coming term each of our hardworking and dedicated Governors will be writing an article in the newsletter to let you know a little bit about themselves and their role on the Governing Body.

#### Sandy Mercado

Governor  
Specialist  
Area: Teaching &  
Learning



Before retiring in December 2010 I spent 22 years working in Further Education. I began as a lecturer in Sociology, Politics and History and by the time I left I had moved into management. At the time of my retirement I was Head of Faculty with extensive responsibility for a large number of staff and a wide range of courses in A level, BTEC and NVQ as well as a very thriving adult education department. I liaised with local high schools and also two local universities. I lead a team of managers who were responsible for overseeing the departments which made up the Faculty. It was a very demanding job but despite the long hours and stress it was also enjoyable - which is easier to say now than it was then! As a result I found retirement just a little quiet and by 2011 I had started

voluntary work at Watford General Hospital, initially in the Maternity Department and subsequently on the children's ward as part of a team working with parents of sick children.

When I was approached and asked if I would like to be a school governor I was both thrilled and intimidated. I obviously had considerable experience of the Further Education system but knew little about Primary Education. The closest I came to primary school was my granddaughter who had just started in Year 1. But I had a desire to be back in an educational environment. I believe fervently in the importance of a sound education as builder of confidence and a provider of opportunities for young people. My experience in the Further Education sector and, more recently, watching my granddaughter's progress at school, has convinced me that those earliest years in education are the most crucial. Primary education is the foundation upon which a successful education career is based.

So, I joined the governing body of Little Reddings School in September 2015 and found I had quite a steep learning curve ahead of me. But my fellow governors have been tremendously supportive and patient with my frequent questions. I am currently a member of the **Teaching and Learning subcommittee**. This committee examines the performance of teachers and their professional development.



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The committee also scrutinises the School Development Plan and reviews school policies. We analyse children's achievement and receive regular reports from the Head Teacher on progress and activities in the school.

**My Link Governor role** during 2015/2016 was to liaise with a member of staff responsible for the Cornerstones Project. This project was a new initiative to integrate learning into exciting and challenging activities that inspired the children's involvement, imagination and curiosity. I visited the school to meet the lead teacher and also to visit classes and see how the project was working. I was able to meet children from all year groups who told me about their work on these projects. I also supported class activities when a visiting artist came to work on art and science projects with the children. On another occasion I joined a lively group of Year 1 children on a walk to the Rose Garden in Bushey where they enjoyed a very active morning engaged in a number of tasks and activities organised by a member of the Rose Garden staff.

I am thoroughly enjoying my developing relationship with Little Reddings and am very proud of "my school" as I like to think of it. I am impressed with the vitality and professionalism of the teaching staff and have been delighted with the children I have met during my visits. I look forward to contributing to the school's continuing

development and success throughout the rest of this academic year and beyond.

**Sandy Mercado**

**John Hastie**

Governor

Specialist Area: Finance

I'm John Hastie and I'm a community governor. I'm also on the governing body at Bushey Meads school, and have previous experience as a chair of governors at a junior school in Watford. I have a daughter in the sixth form at Bushey Meads and another in her first year at university. I chair the Finance & Resources committee which for the first time this year is a single committee across both Little Reddings and Bushey Meads.

As well as the finance and budgeting, our committee also looks at staffing, premises and facilities. Every year the full governing body has to approve the budget that the headteacher puts forward before it is submitted to the government. Our committee examines the budget, and asks questions in detail before making a recommendation to the full governing body for approval.

While everyone understands the need for great teachers and teaching assistants, their efforts are further enhanced by excellent non-teaching staff, good buildings and systems that support improvement. It has been good to see the progress in ICT provision since being part of the trust, and large projects such as the new



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facilities for the reception classes, and improvements to the nursery. The school really benefits from sharing premises staff with a secondary school. At the end of our last committee meeting we looked around the school and saw the fantastic new reading corners in the classrooms.

Why do we do this? Looking at accounts and budgets isn't the most exciting thing you can do on a Monday evening! A stable financial future underpins Miss Simmonds and the senior leadership team's goal of whole school improvement and allows longer term plans to be implemented while making the site a brighter place for pupils, staff and parents.

**John Hastie**

### Headlice

Please remember to check your child's hair for lice and treat if necessary. Remember that long hair should be tied up to help minimize the chances of infection.



For more information, visit

<http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Head-lice/Pages/Introduction.aspx>

### Stand Up To Cancer Day



Friday 21<sup>st</sup> was Stand Up To cancer day. All of the children wore orange and the staff wore special Stand Up To Cancer t-shirts, paying a £1 donation.

Nursery took part in a sponsored sing-a-thon, Reception in a sponsored dance-a-thon, Year 1 in a sponsored aerob-a-thon, Year 2 in a sponsored spell-a-thon, Year 3 in a sponsored silence, Year 4 in a sponsored read-a-thon, Year 5 in a sponsored timestable-a-thon and Year 6 in a sponsored stand up all day. The staff also were sponsored to do different things - including hula-hooping, juggling, judo throws, speaking other languages etc.

The day finished with Mr Parr having his hair shaved off in the playground, much to the delight of everyone watching!

08:38 88%  
justgiving.com



Leigh Parr

Leigh's Head shave

Fundraising for Stand Up To Cancer in collaboration with Cancer Research UK and Channel 4

200%  
£200.00  
raised of £100 target  
by 11 supporters

Donate Share

**Sophia Watson-Green** in Reception raised a staggering £229 through sponsorship. I'm incredibly proud of the whole school community



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and how everyone has rallied together to support this fantastic event for Cancer Research UK. Our success in fundraising for this event is indicative of our achievements together in moving our school forward. Great teamwork!



So far, we have raised over **£2500**, with the figure still rising. You can still donate online at <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/littlereddings-standuptocancer>

### Meet the Teacher

It was great to see so many of you at Meet the Teacher evenings this week. There was a really positive vibe around the school and it was great to hear the amount of positive learning experiences being discussed.

We received some incredibly positive feedback from many parents and this just shows how far along in our journey we have already come. Just a few of the many positive quotes from parents were:

I am really happy with my child's improvement.

Fun, kind and supportive teachers.

Great teachers = happy kids!

We are very pleased – keep it up! Our son loves coming in and is clearly making good progress.



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### Year 6 Visit RAF Museum

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> November year 6 travelled to the RAF Museum in Hendon. This was a good opportunity to learn about the planes used in WW2.



Our first activity was in a classroom based around 1940. We had an instructor to help us with our first activity, which was making a box to put gasmasks in. Once we made our gasmask boxes, we had a 1940 lesson with a strict teacher to show us what it is like to be a student in that time. I even wrote with a quill for the first time!

We got an opportunity to look at some of the planes. They were gargantuan! After having a look at the planes, we watched a short film about the Dam Busters and the bouncing bombs.

Next we did a quiz on the ships used during WW2 and WW1 and learned about them.

We had a great time at the museum.

Written by Alex, Year 6

On Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November year 6 were fortunate enough to be given the chance to go to the RAF Museum in Hendon. Here we learnt all about planes during WW2.

One of my favourite parts was when we travelled back to 1940 and we acted like WW2 school children. During this workshop we made gasmask boxes as well as (writing in ink) about equivalent money, twelve shillings to one pound, two halfpennies to one pence. Throughout this I experienced mixed emotions of fear, when we were told we were going to be evacuated and being scared when the air raid sounded.



All through this day we learnt lots. Wallis and his bouncing bomb and Joan Lennox being the first woman in the WAAF. I would highly recommend this museum for anyone.

Written by Hannah, Year 6



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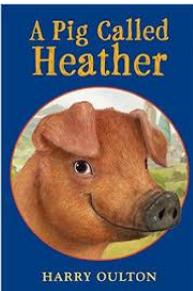
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### Writers Day

This week, Little Reddings hosted a Writers Day with author Harry Oulton. Children from other schools came to LRS and joined some of our Year 5 and 6s for the day. Luke's account of the day follows:



On Wednesday an author came in for a special occasion. 12 lucky pupils from year 6 and year 5 were chosen to meet in person Harry Oulton. I was one of the 12 to meet him.

On Wednesday we played a quite interesting game called Boggle where you would roll dice with letters on them and then put the letters in a grid and see what fascinating words we could make.

As well as that we also played other fun games. We even wrote fun things as well.

Thank you so much for letting me have the experience to meet an author.

Written by Luke, Year

### Dates for your Diary

7<sup>th</sup> November - school closed INSET day

11<sup>th</sup> November - MUFTI Day - bring a teddy

### Attendance

Class	Percentages
Rosen	84.0
Donaldson	93.9
Ahlberg	96.1
Milne	95.0
Browne	89.5
Hoffman	93.5
King-Smith	96.5
Walliams	99.4
Dahl	95.5
Simon	96.9
Morpurgo	94.4
Horowitz	95.2
Pullman	93.0
Blackman	96.1
Rowling	98.5

### Writer of the Week

Year 1: Kacper, Amelia

Year 2: Summer G, Nathan

Year 4: Sheharni, Lacey

Year 5: Ava, Chelsie

Year 6: Oliver, Aidan

### Star of the Week

Reception: Sienna, Leo R

Year 1: Charlie S, Metaxia

Year 2: Adrian, Tyler

Year 3: Nicholas, Tyrese

Year 4: Alfie H, Benjamin

Year 5: George H, Elliot

Year 6: Aidan, Hannah

