



Spring 2019

The Wellbeing Café visit

Victoria Amella, Foundation Governor



As a foundation governor, one of my roles is to encourage and build strong relationships between the school and the local church community.

For the past 18 months, I have been running a Wellbeing Café at St Luke's church, which opens its doors to over thirty members of our community every Thursday afternoon. As well as attracting anyone who may be lonely and in need of some company, we are also dementia friendly with basic training to accommodate anyone with an early diagnosis.

The team and I serve homemade soup and a roll followed by cakes a plenty washed down with as many teas or coffees you can drink! We then take part in various activities such as playing dominoes, completing jigsaws or making a rag-rug.

Over several weeks, we were fortunate enough to have a group of students from Richard Taylor school visit to the delight of our customers. They enthusiastically participated in all the activities and comfortably chatted to our customers who love to tell a tale!

Sport at Richard Taylor

Lynsey Barraclough, Parent Governor

As the sports governor, I am passionate about enabling all pupils to access sports, whether competitive or mass participation events as I believe sport can be inclusive for all.

I have been fortunate to watch some of our talented runners take part in the schools' cross country event last week at Dalby Forest, where 3 of our children represented Harrogate in their respective year groups.

Having met with Mrs Saunderson, the school's sports lead, I know there are some exciting plans for the summer term, which all students can access. These include a running club which the year 5 sports ambassadors are leading, which is brilliant idea! As a parent who regularly watches the junior Parkrun, I can see the number of Richard Taylor children participating is increasing. It's always great to see our young people enjoying themselves running round Valley Gardens on a Sunday morning.

The summer term is always busy with sporting events, which I hope to support where I can. Mrs Saunderson and her team do a great job in giving children opportunities to represent the school.

Supporting all at Richard Taylor

Jan Johnson, Foundation Governor



As the Governor responsible for Inclusion, Equality and Special Educational needs, I visit regularly to talk to Mr Symonds and Mrs Styles about making all at Richard Taylor feel valued and included.

This year, we've spent a lot of time making sure that our school mission statement, vision statement, aims and school plans, all took this into account. In addition, recognising that good mental health is as important as good physical health, I have been working with Mrs Symonds to make sure all who come to Richard Taylor are supported with positive well-being plans. Like the staff, I have attended courses to develop my understanding around mental health and wellbeing in young people.

Finally, I also supported the spiritual side of school life when I came into talk about how we could join in the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Christingle service in aid of the Children Society. The whole school got involved in making celebration presents for the services at St John's and were invited to join the services especially for the celebration cake!

Governor and Friend of Richard Taylor

Laura Singleton, Parent Governor

As a Parent Governor, I have the responsibility of representing the views of parents on the Governing body. But I also support the parents and school with my involvement with the Friends of Richard Taylor.

The Friends held their annual sponsored bunny bounce in March and it was a fun morning for all the children. The aim of the Bunny Bounce was that the children had to bounce as many times as they could on a bouncy castle for one minute.

Every bounce was sponsored by parents, friends, grandmas and grandads, etc., so the more bounces the children did; the more money they raised.

This year, the money raised will go towards redesigning of the Wildlife area at school. So far the children have managed to raise £1,600; they aim to raise over £2,000 which is an amazing amount.

I want to say "Well done" to all the children and thank you to all the support from parents, carers and friends.

