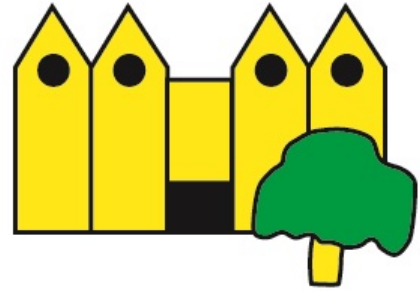


WEST OXFORD COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Autumn Term 2016



THE GOVERNING BODY UPDATE

This is the latest update from the Governing Body of West Oxford Community Primary School. We would particularly like to welcome the parents whose children are new to the school, and hope that your children have settled in well! Likewise, we would like to stay in touch with all those whose children have been at West Oxford for longer. In this update, we cover changes to the Governing Body and give you a snapshot of topics discussed at this term's meetings.

WHO IS ON OUR GOVERNING BODY?

We currently have 12 members:

- Head Teacher (Clare Bladen)
- Staff Governor (Johnny James)
- Three parent governors (Kelly Faye, Ben Selby, Helen Kaufmann)
- Five co-opted Governors, chosen as members of the community who have important experience and skills that will benefit the Governing Body (Rebecca Huxley, Susanna Pressel, Colin Cook, Joey Potgieter and Rachel Goode)
- Two associate members (Clare Sykes and Claudi Thomas)

Jenny Crewe has decided to step down. We would like to take this opportunity to thank her very warmly for the huge amount of time, effort and work she has invested to improve our school, in particular on developing the school vision and leading a staff wellbeing workshop.

Ursula Irvine, who served as Clerk for the Governing Body for 4 years has also decided to resign from her role. It is hard to do justice to the diligence and commitment with which she has written agendas and minutes and taken on various other administrative tasks over the course of the years, and we would like to thank her heartily for her work.

We will in due course, after an internal skills audit, co-opt another governor to replace Jenny and have asked for a Clerk from Oxfordshire Governors' Service to take over the minuting of Full Governing Body and HPR meetings.

SPOTLIGHT ON GOVERNOR TOPICS

At Full Governing Body we have discussed the new School Development and Improvement Plan (a document that is produced every year by the headteacher based on information from staff, governors, children, parents and assessment and identifies priorities for the coming school year). The main focus of the current plan is on writing and how the children's writing can be improved. Writing is an important part of the National Curriculum, in particular the development of reading and writing in all subjects to support the acquisition of knowledge. Pupils are expected to develop the stamina and skills to write at length—with accurate spelling and punctuation—in order to enable them to consolidate their learning and fully express themselves.

Our staff devoted one of their INSET days to exploring how best to improve writing across the school, and they have developed a whole-school plan with a series of specific and consistent targets. It includes further development of 'Talk for Writing' and the introduction of 'Power of Reading', and continuing to use termly moderation of writing across classes to ensure that all children have reached expected standard or made progress towards it. Parents who are interested in learning more about these approaches and how they can support their children to improve writing can speak to their children's teachers.

The Effectiveness, Standards, and Welfare Committee met very early in the term and spent some time considering the full-year assessment data from the previous academic year. We were reassured to see that our teachers and assistants were getting to grips with the new 'life without levels' assessment system, and were able to draw valuable and actionable insights from the data. Of note, it is clear that the volunteers who offer additional reading support make a hugely positive difference to those children—we all appreciate the time they give, and would encourage others from the community to volunteer their time in this way; the more support of this type we can offer, the better the results.

Governors have also looked at safeguarding standards, which are higher than they used to be: Schools are, for example, expected to lock their grounds in the evenings and on weekends and to train regular volunteers in safeguarding. We are strongly committed to meeting these standards without compromising our relationships with the community, for instance by allowing access to the astro turf in the school playground in special circumstances such as flooding of the parks.

The Human and Physical Resources Committee has discussed and approved a large capital spend programme, including an electronic front gate and a fire door on the ground floor. A timetable for implementation of these projects is now being developed. The Committee has also discussed issues relating to staff retention and has approved an increase in office staffing. Thank you to those of you who have completed the parent survey this term. Your feedback is something we take seriously, and we will be reviewing the results at our next HPR meeting.

THANK YOU!

The Governors would like to say thank you to all members of staff: teachers, teaching assistants and other support staff such as those working in the office and kitchen. We are very grateful for your hard work on the behalf of the children and their education! We would also say thank you to all volunteers, as well as those that support the school in other important ways. Your support is vital and greatly appreciated!