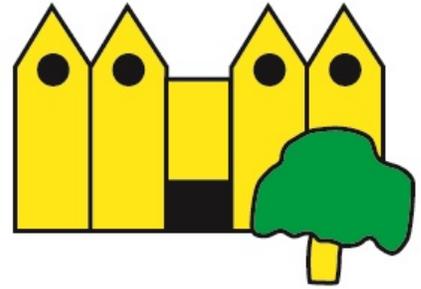


WEST OXFORD COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Summer Term 2017



THE GOVERNING BODY UPDATE

This is the latest update from the Governing Body of West Oxford Community Primary School. We would like to welcome the parents and carers of children who started nursery in April and hope that your children have settled in well! Likewise, we would like to stay in touch with all other parents and carers; so feel free to speak to us any time. In this update, we want to give you an impression of what we have been doing and discussing this term.

WHO IS ON OUR GOVERNING BODY?

We currently have 10 members:

- Head Teacher (Clare Bladen)
- Staff Governor (Johnny James)
- Two parent governors (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)
- One associate member (Claudi Thomas)

As you know Mr James, our Y5 class teacher, who has been a staff governor this year, will leave West Oxford at the end of this school year. We would like to take this opportunity to thank him cordially for all his contribution to the Governing Body and wish him all the best at his new school in Manchester!

In our last update we mentioned that another parent governor would be elected this term. As we received only one nomination, the election did not need to be held. We thus welcome Louise Savell-Roy, whose son will move from nursery to reception in September, very warmly to the Governing Body! Her term starts in September, but she has attended meetings this term to familiarize herself with the material.

We are also very grateful for the three people who have submitted applications for the vacant position of a co-opted governor. We have interviewed them, and they have all impressed us. After much reflection, we offered the vacant position to Joanne Hamer and associate membership to Robin Rogers, and we are delighted that they have both accepted! Their terms also start in September. Welcome, Joanne and Robin, to our Governing Body and the community of West Oxford Community Primary School! We very much look forward to working with and learning from you!

SPOTLIGHT ON GOVERNOR TOPICS

The Effectiveness, Standards, and Welfare Committee met early in the term to review the learning and teaching across the school. As usual, we looked at the teachers' termly assessments (all anonymised but broken into specific categories) and compared it to earlier assessments of the same children and to the targets set in the School Development Plan.

We invited Rachel Caseby, an independent governors' trainer, to observe our Full Governors Body meeting in June and feedback on how we can become more efficient as a Governing Body. As a result of Rachel's visit, we are currently finalising a Governors Monitoring schedule for 2017-8.

The Human and Physical Resources Committee reviewed expenditure against budget at the end of the first quarter. We also considered the results of a recent staff survey, as well as the actions agreed in response to last autumn's parent survey.

Six governors undertook learning walks to specific areas of the school this term: Susanna Pressel (behaviour), Joey Potgieter (Key Stage 1), Rachel Goode (Key Stage 2), Rebecca Huxley (Early Years – Foundation Stage), Colin Cook (health and safety) and Helen Kaufmann (safeguarding). To give two examples of what governors find out on such walks: On her visit to Reception, Rebecca was much impressed by how engaged the children were both in play and in a group activity to put numbers in the right order. She also noted how well teaching staff knew what was needed for each individual child to reach Good Level of Development, the government target of Reception. On his visit Colin Cook undertook a general risk assessment together with Lisa Penton, the School's Office Manager. He also checked what actions had been taken since the County Council's health and safety monitoring visit in May, and made recommendations to the Human and Physical Resources Committee such as prioritizing the provision of lockers in corridors on the fire exit routes.

Rebecca Huxley also attended an information meeting at the Town Hall, where various Multiple Academy Trusts presented themselves, and the strengths and weaknesses of academies were explored. At the following Full Governors Body meeting we considered that it was currently more beneficial for West Oxford to continue as a maintained Local Authority school (rather than an academy), but that we would invite representatives from two Multiple Academy Trusts to present these to us in order to have the necessary information and connections at hand if at some point it became clear that it would be more beneficial for the school to become an academy. The benefits of being a maintained school or part of a Multiple Academy Trust mainly depend on the availability of resources and this in turn on political decisions at national and county level.

THANK YOU!

At the end of this school year, we would like to say a particular thank you to the staff members who will be leaving the school: Mr James (Y5 teacher), Mr Smith (Y6 teacher), Mrs Cook, Miss Fiaz and Miss Suárez (Reception teachers, teaching assistant) and wish them all the very best for their careers! We would, however, also like to say thank you to all other 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 behalf of the children and their education! Finally, thank you to all volunteers as well as those who support the school in other important ways!