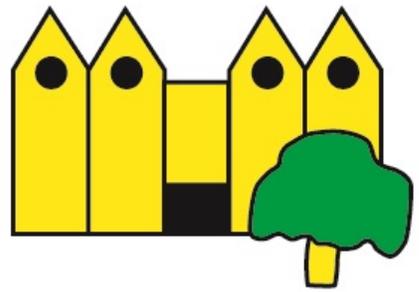


# WEST OXFORD COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Spring 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 January 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)

Kelly Faye has made the difficult decision to step down as parent governor after a year and a half as she was not able to commit enough time to the role due to work and family commitments and felt that this was not fair on the rest of the governing body. We would like to take this opportunity to thank her very warmly for all the time, effort and work she has invested to improve our school, in particular for bringing her educational expertise to the meetings.

Elections for another parent governor to fill this vacancy will be held next term. If you are interested in becoming a parent governor or know a suitable candidate, please keep your eyes open for the nomination form next term.

We are also currently looking for candidates from the community to fill the co-opted governor vacancy left by Jenny Crewe last term. The position has been advertised in the WOCA newsletter and on our school website (<http://westoxfordschool.co.uk/2918/governor-vacancy/>). If you know of suitable candidates, especially people with experience in the education sector or business, we would be very grateful if you could direct their attention to this.

Clare Sykes has stepped down as an Associate Member of the Governing Body. Thank you Clare for your support to the school over the years.

## SPOTLIGHT ON GOVERNOR TOPICS

The Effectiveness, Standards, and Welfare Committee met early in the term to review the learning and teaching across the school. One important role we carry out is to interrogate the school's assessment data—we look at the teachers' termly assessments (all anonymised but broken into specific categories) and we also look at the official government data taken from SATS results. This allows us to see how the school is performing against the targets we have set and in comparison to other schools. We are then able to ask questions of the senior leadership team, to ensure that the school has the right strategies and resources in place to address any areas of concern. Broadly speaking, our school performs strongly in reading and reasonably well in maths, but we have had some issues with writing (not unlike many other schools across the country, following changes to the national curriculum). The teaching of writing has thus been the focus of recent discussions, and the School Development Plan has robust targets for improvement, with accompanying action plans.

The Human and Physical Resources Committee focussed on reviewing the school's financial control mechanisms at its last meeting. With school finances under increasing pressure, members of Friends and HPR are exploring how to work more closely together to fund major projects. They will be holding a meeting open to all parents on Friday 12 May at 3:30pm to get parental input. Please come along if you are able. The HPR Committee also reviewed the results of the recent parent survey. The school was rated well by parents for wellbeing, teaching and learning, and overall satisfaction, but scored less well for leadership, facilities, and parents feeling informed about their child's subjects. A group of governors will be meeting with the Headteacher to review the results and agree on next steps. We'll feedback to parents in due course, but in the meantime, thank you to everyone who took part in the survey.

Rachel Goode has conducted two Governor learning walks so far this school year – these formal visits are one of our core responsibilities, and allow us to observe how the School Development Plan is being put into practice, and to ensure that everyone in the school is working towards achieving the goals, objectives, and targets we have set out. The two learning walks covered Key Stages 1 and 2 respectively. Rachel was able to spend time in the classrooms as well as ask lots of questions of our teachers and support staff. All in all, the visits were hugely encouraging. During the Key Stage 2 visit Rachel focused on the school's writing action plan, the new marking policy and new system for target setting, and current staff engagement and culture. Across all areas, she saw well implemented and impactful systems, and a team of staff that are motivated, positive, and getting great results. Our new deputy head Tessa Palfreyman is doing a wonderful job in leading new aspects of teaching and learning across the school, under the direction of Clare Bladen – well done and thank you to all of our staff!

As you may be aware, there is currently a lot of noise about turning schools into academies. For example, North Hinksey CofE Primary School is consulting with parents/carers at the moment. At West Oxford we have researched different academy trusts and may invite a number of them to speak to the Governing Body next term. No decisions have been made, and we are looking at all options. If you would like to speak to the Governing Body about this, please contact Joey Potgieter.

## 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!