

Westcott Church of England School

Governing Board Newsletter 18th July 2022



Hello Everybody

This newsletter is intended to keep members of the school community up to date with activities at school from the perspective of the Governing Board. We intend to issue Newsletters regularly so that you are kept aware of what is happening at school now, and what is planned for the future.

School Leadership

Since the end of Autumn Term, Mr Grace has had extended absence from school, and the staff team have been led by Interim Heads, Mrs Dimbleby and Mrs Price, ably supported by Roz Burch from the Bucks team. We thank them for the great work that they have done at Westcott.

Both Mrs Dimbleby and Mrs Price will be moving on in September, and we wish them all the best - Mrs Dimbleby to take up her first full-time Headship, and Mrs Price to return to full time at Cuddington & Dinton.

At the time of writing, we are still reviewing options for the Interim Head role in September. Please be assured that there is lots of work happening behind the scenes at the Local Authority to find the right solution for Westcott CofE School.

We thank Mrs Jones for her great commitment to keeping the school running at a difficult time, as well as her service as class teacher and Staff Governor. Mrs Jones will also be leaving us at the end of August, to take up a position as an ASD adviser for the Specialist Teaching service. We can't announce a definite new teacher to take on Year 5/6 next term. We will keep looking, and firmly believe that it's better to wait for the right teacher than to rush into employing someone who might not suit the role so well. We will let you know as soon as we can.

Teaching and Learning

Under the leadership of Mrs Price and Mrs Dimbleby several aspects of teaching and learning have been undergoing improvement and change over the last two terms. Teaching staff have been extremely busy beyond normal classroom time to start the improvement process. Key areas have included Curriculum structure and Phonics, as well as Maths. You will notice changes to how these look, the resources that pupils use, and what is on our website (ReadWrite Inc Phonics and White Rose Maths). There is still much to do, into next term and beyond. We thank the staff for their engagement with these necessary improvements, and in anticipation of future work in this area.

Ofsted Inspection

The inspection happened on 14th - 15th June, and the report is expected in September. Initial feedback to the school leadership by the inspector was fair and insightful. It acknowledged that the school is in the process of improving. The final report will be shared with parents and published on the school website, and we will have a meeting for parents shortly after this to discuss the results and their implications for the school.

School Values

Staff have proposed, and Governing Board recently approved, an addition to our school Values. "Respect" has been added. So the complete list is now:

Forgiveness

Friendship

Persistence

Respect

Thankfulness

Trust

These values guide how we behave and the choices we make. They are all important all of the time, but the school will have a special focus on one in each half term of the coming school year.

Website

The school website has been refreshed, and will continue to evolve. There are useful resources and information there. In particular, we draw your attention to:

- **Behaviour Policy**, giving clarity on how we reward and manage behaviour at school. Staff have been strongly involved in developing this policy, and we urge the school community to support them in making it work.
- **Attendance Policy** - coming soon.

The Governing Board

Along with the school, the Governing Board is undergoing development. Jonathan Lewin is Interim Chair of Governors, following Mr Catchpole's resignation. We have some new governors starting in September; however, we still need Westcott families to be represented on the board by a Parent Governor. If you care about the future of the school, and would like to influence it, please contact us. You don't have to be an education expert, just an interest in helping develop Westcott CofE School.

Thank you.

Jonathan Lewin

Interim Chair of Governors, on behalf of the Governing Board, Westcott CofE School