

Governors' newsletter – Autumn/Winter 2021

Dear Parents & Carers,

The autumn term has passed at pace, with school life thankfully returning to a more normal footing following the disruption experienced in the 2020/21 academic year. The pressure on our school staff team has continued in the face of a multitude of factors, including rising levels of infection, resultant staff shortages and the very present need to continue to address gaps in the children's attainment as a result of the previous lockdown(s) and periods of self-isolation. Therefore, it is appropriate to reference our school vision - '*to be the best we can be*' and throughout this period, we have seen every part of our school community live up to this – thank you for all that you have done and continue to do to support our children. We must also highlight the exceptional school attendance figures for the first half term; **a staggering 96.2% against 88.2% national average** - testament to our children's desire to get back to a happy and dynamic school.

Change in Governors

During the Autumn term, the Governing Board (GB) waved goodbye to Stewart Hayward and Jenny Rollinson who had both diligently supported our school community for a number of years. Stewart had broad responsibilities across the school, most recently being pivotal in the assurance activity surrounding the school's pandemic risk assessment. Jenny's support included leading our annual headteacher performance review effort which is a critical part of our mandate. On behalf of the GB, we would like to thank Stewart and Jenny for their long standing commitment to our school community.

School Development Plan (SDP)

Together with the school's Senior Leadership Team (SLT), the GB have reviewed the SDP which underpins *what* the school's operational priorities are and *how* the SLT will deliver them. You might recall that during 2020-21, the school operated a 'recovery plan' which was focussed on addressing gaps in learning as a result of the pandemic lockdown. It has been agreed with West Sussex CC that we will now operate a 3-year SDP, constructed to address both near term priorities (on-going recovery) and medium term goals which will take longer to embed. The GB continues to provide due diligence and inputs to the SDP which will be communicated in due course.



Your Governors

Chair & Parent Governor

Simon Butcher-Collier

Vice-Chair & Parent Governor

James Cooke

Headteacher & Staff Governors

Caroline Bennett

Lucy Bates

Co-Opted Governors

Elaine Duarte

Sada Ray

John Sommer

Sam Thomson

LEA Governor

Victoria Sheasby

GB Monitoring & Responsibilities

Formal and in-school monitoring by the GB has been particularly difficult during the pandemic, where the priority has rightly been skewed towards the operational day-to-day. That said, the GB have reviewed the SDP and accomplished 'in-school' monitoring of the Early Years (EY) provision. Both of these engagements provided tremendous value, including the opportunities to meet school staff in person once again rather than across Zoom. We all very much believe that the GB are here to support the school staff and SLT and this is far more productive in face-to-face settings - long may this continue. At the start of this academic year, the GB sought to revisit both our responsibilities and our core priorities. Following review, these are as follows:

1. **Curriculum** – Victoria Sheasby, James Cooke, Sam Thomson and Elaine Duarte
2. **Inclusion & SEND** – Sada Ray
3. **Safeguarding** – Simon Butcher-Collier
4. **Finance** – John Sommer & James Cooke
5. **Wellbeing** – Sada Ray
6. **Health & Safety** – Simon Butcher-Collier

Attainment and Engagement

It has sadly become a fact of life that illnesses and restrictions are here to stay. Therefore, we continue to support parents and carers in encouraging children to enjoy and engage in their home learning, so that we can continue to close gaps and create a cohort of children who are lifelong learners. Please take a minute to review the wealth of information on the school website regarding our curriculum; the GB are always happy to support a discussion on this.

School Experiences

Despite these challenging times the opportunity to provide the children with valuable experiences have been grasped throughout the school these include Anglo-Saxon and Stone Age to Iron Age history days, Anti-Bullying Week, Year 2 Diwali dancing, Year 5/6 football tournaments, Remembrance Day, Harvest at the church, bonfire and fireworks, Wonderdome and Y1 Grandparents day.



School Vision Statement

'Striving to be the best we can be'

At Wisborough Green Primary School, we are uncompromising in our aspirations for the children, staff and school community. We foster self-reliance, curiosity and independence so that our children become confident life-long learners. Our children feel happy, safe and valued. We take pride in our talented staff, who work closely with our supportive parents and village community. Our broad and exciting curriculum encourages every child to find and fulfil their potential, both academically and beyond the classroom.

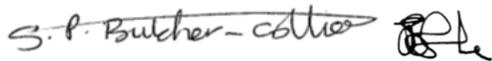
Governor Opportunity Currently we have two co-opted governor positions vacant. These would be suitable for those who do not have children attending WGPS

Parental Surveys The GB will be looking at ways to hear what you think about our school 'the 'parents voice' in 2022. If you have any ideas, please don't hesitate to get in touch: gov@wisboroughgreenschool.org.uk

Christmas with the Aliens!

Many of us were fortunate enough to see the YR, 1 & 2 production of 'Christmas with the Aliens' in-school during early December. This was a fine reminder of the resilience of our children and the tenacity of the staff team to deliver such an important event.

The Governors, thank all of the staff at Wisborough Green Primary School for their dedication and hard work throughout this year and would like to wish all of our school community a very merry Christmas, a restful break and we look forward to seeing you all in 2022.



Simon Butcher-Collier, Chair of Governors
James Cooke, Vice-Chair of Governors

