

Governors' Newsletter – Summer 2022

Dear Parents & Carers,

The Summer term is in full swing, with a thankful return to many of the events that form the very core of school life, such as the Y3/4 spring concert, Y5/6 summer performance and our summer fete. It has also been fantastic for some of the Governors to spend dedicated time in school this academic year, able to witness both the dedication of our whole staff team and the resilience and happiness of our children. On behalf of the Governing Body (GB), we would like to extend our thanks to our whole school community for being so adaptable in the face of a multitude of challenges since September. Ever hopeful that Covid-19 remains in the 'rear-view mirror', the GB look forward to continuing to support our school staff team through regular in-school monitoring visits and increasing our visibility and accessibility to our whole school community.

In-School Monitoring

In-school monitoring is one of the many areas that, understandably, had to cease during the Covid-19 pandemic. In-school monitoring provides the GB with opportunities to focus on delivery of specific areas of the curriculum and to hear, first hand, from our children. Our curriculum sub-group is up and running, with 4 members of the GB conducting monitoring alongside school subject leaders in science, art, history and music & languages. By the end of this academic term, the sub-group will have monitored each of these areas, provided feedback to the wider GB and will commence planning for the next academic year's monitoring activity. It is always very refreshing to spend time in school, speaking to staff and enjoying some very interesting conversations with the children, including some challenging questions back to us!

Ofsted

We are fully expecting an Ofsted inspection in the coming months, given the last visit was January 2018. This remains a focus for the whole school team and the GB, with the aim to showcase what it means to be part of the WGPS community and how the school continues to recover from the challenges inflicted by the pandemic. There is some useful information for parents at this [link](#).



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

Simon Butcher-Collier*

LEA Governor

Victoria Sheasby

*Mr Butcher Collier, whilst Chair, is also a Co-Opted Governor

Finance

Despite the ongoing challenges for public sector funding, we are pleased to report that the school's financial position remains secure. This is thanks to the ongoing work of the school's Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and our business manager Sarah Taaffe in juggling day-to-day priorities that require funding, whilst putting the finances on a sustainable footing. External funding is also an important part of school life and the investments made by the PTA are critical. For example, PTA funding allows the school to improve its equipment and provide high quality learning experiences for our children; we thank all those involved in supporting those initiatives. Also on the horizon is an important decision regarding the future of the school swimming pool, which has recently been condemned.

Attainment Data

The school conducts internal, termly assessments of pupil attainment in order to produce progress data across all year groups in core subject areas. Although the immediate post lockdown assessments did demonstrate an evident decline in pupil attainment, we were very encouraged recently to observe that the summer term evaluations have demonstrated significant improvement and evidence of 'catch up' across the board. This is testament to all of the dedication and hard work from the teaching community at WGPS and is to be commended.

Link Advisor Visit

The school has regular engagement with a link advisor who offers support and challenge across all aspects of curriculum delivery and development at WGPS. With the next visit scheduled for July, we thought it prudent to include a comment from the Spring visit:

"leaders demonstrated that there is strong knowledge of the pupils and the provision in place. Leaders were able to evidence the progress made and the difference this is making on pupils"

Summer

The first WGPS Summer Fete in 3 years was a joyous occasion, with the magical procession, maypole and commentary by Mrs Scott-Kerr just some of the highlights. The event will also add a welcome boost to the PTA's coffers and we thank everyone for their continued support. Finally, on behalf of the GB, we very much hope that you enjoy the rest of the summer term and have an enjoyable summer break.

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



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 Engagement

The GB will always try to be present at major school events so please feel free to grab any of us for a chat to raise issues or to find out more about being part of the GB.

Changes to the GB

Following his decision to step down, we would like to extend our thanks to John Sommer for 5 years of dedicated service as a co-opted governor. John has provided support to the financial elements of GB business and we thank him for his support to our school and community. We look forward to welcoming Karen Hayler and Neil Martin to the GB from Sep-22 and will be introducing their specific duties in due course.