

---

May 2023



### **WGPS – A new governor's view**

Having become a governor in September 2022, at the end of the Spring term I had the opportunity to visit the school and see some of the brilliant things that go on at this fantastic school.

I was met by two of the school ambassadors, Harry and Amy who whisked me away to the year 3 and 4 Spring concert. From 9.00am to 10.20am I was treated to an amazing medley of musical talent. Mr Harder's conducting and hard work in putting the concert together was evident in spades. From individual performances on the recorder and piano; including a stellar display on the electric guitar from Freddie in year 5, to spectacular collective and solo singing. The array of talent was impressive and the applause rapturous. The pupils showed great spirit and a sense of unity not only through their performances but in the way that they supported each other during their performances. What a wonderful way to begin the day!

After a quick break Lola, Maddie and Mia collected me to go and see year 6 PE. Under the watchful eye and expert instruction of Jake from the Brighton and Hove Albion outreach programme the pupils were quickly put through their paces focussing carefully on their training from the term, carefully warming up, working as a team and playing some excellent Basketball. Lola, Maddie and Mia were really proud of their school, telling me all about how pupils are nominated and elected to positions of responsibility, all three of them had written personal letters of application to Mrs Bennett to become ambassadors; it was very easy to see why they had gotten the job. When I asked them what they would miss the most at WGPS they all talked about the community, relationships and togetherness.

The year 6 ambassadors dropped me off with Miss Summerfield and Mrs Swan at 11.00am. Wow! What a wonderful learning environment. The reception class were exploring independently, some working on their writing and reading with Mrs Swan and others outside extending their knowledge of the undersea environment; a topic for the term. All the pupils were very proud of their learning and very excited to show me their painting, crafting, and school work. I was really impressed to read through the 'Learning Journey' journal with two members of the class, each and every page beautifully laid out and explained so eloquently by the pupils. Miss Summerfield explained to me that this part of the curriculum would allow for pupil led learning with the support from herself and Mrs Swan. All of the pupils were happy, kind and curious; how lucky they are to have such great teaching!

My next stop was Rowan class, the year 5s had just had their morning swimming lessons and had been working hard to achieve their standard levels in the pool. Today's period was history, a favourite subject of mine! I was greeted with a wonderfully calm and focussed class. The year 5s were looking at the consequences of the Titanic disaster of 1912. Miss Maguire had been guiding the pupils through a fantastic historical enquiry through the course of the term. The pupils were really engaged and were excited to tell me about their knowledge of the event and also to relay what they had learned on a recent trip to Southampton, even identifying Mr Harder's great uncle whom survived the disaster! To really extend learning, pupils had adopted period dress this term to allow them to empathise more creatively not only with the catastrophe but also the personal stories resulting from it. Thanks to Jayden and Reeve whom were so open about what they had learned; clearly some budding Historians for the future!



During the lunch period I dropped into the office to see Mrs Taaffe-Reseigh the School Business Manager. It was really interesting to get a glimpse into the processes of the busy lunch time routine and to discuss how the term had gone from the office perspective, as ever a busy one with lots of challenges but tackled effectively. I finished off with some lunch with some of the other members of staff, Mrs Downes, Mrs Hill, Mrs Moss and Mr Masters talking about the term and the upcoming events for the Summer term. Mr Masters and I had a fascinating look at some of the archival history of school including an 1896 inspection report which drew attention to the quality of needlework of the pupils; rating it as 'fine'.

Overall, I felt extremely welcomed during my visit. Lola said to me that WGPS is 'a big community within a small school', Lola I could not agree more. Above all it was so clear just how committed all the pupils and staff are to making everyday a positive experience and everyone, pupils and staff should be really proud of what they are doing. Thank you for having me, I hope to visit again and see more of the brilliant things that you are doing!