



Governors' Newsletter

Autumn Term 2023



Dear Parents and Carers,

This term Mrs Ruane began her new role as Head Teacher at our school. We'd like to welcome her to the Westfield Team. We are looking forward to working with her, and we hope that she will enjoy a long and happy association with our school.

Mrs Ruane brings with her a lot of experience of teaching in Key Stage 1, along with new ideas to help improve our school. Mrs. Ruane, the Staff and Governors are already working together to review and strengthen the curriculum to ensure that it meets current Ofsted criteria. We feel that by doing this we will be providing a secure foundation and an exciting learning environment for all our children.

We are also welcoming two new Governors to our Governing Board. Mrs Adina Murataj and Miss Katy Brown. Adina is your new Parent/Carer Governor. Katy was invited to join our Governing Board as a Co-opted Governor. Both Adina and Katy have children in our school, and you can read their personal statements in this newsletter. We'd like to thank them for offering their services to the school and look forward to working with them.

As the end of term approaches, I'd like to thank Mrs Ruane and all our Staff for their hard work, commitment, and dedication. This term has seen changes and challenges that everyone has dealt with in a cheerful and flexible way. What a great team!

I'd also like to thank you, our Parents and Carers for your support. On behalf of Governors, I'd like to wish our Staff and all our Westfield families a Happy Christmas and a Healthy and Peaceful New Year.

Gail Steele
Chair of Governors



Safeguarding, Premises, Health and Safety

Over the summer break work on the premises has taken place to update the heating system. The patio area outside the classrooms along the main corridor was replaced by tarmac. The kitchen has had a new extractor fan installed. Governors are also looking at making some changes to fencing around school to help improve safety. The Local Authority has also visited the school to carry out a Safeguarding Audit.

Many of you will have read and heard about the concerns regarding RAAC concrete being present in schools and causing potential issues. Dan, our Parent/Carer Governor has liaised with the Local Authority and has been given assurances by them, that we do not need to be concerned as school does not have RAAC concrete present.

The school has been contacted by residents on Hays Lane expressing concern about inconsiderate parking and use of the road. Hays Lane is an unadopted road and the resident pay for the upkeep of the road. If you bring your child to school by car then I'd like to remind you that you can park in the Community Centre Car Park and use that entrance into school.

Please do not use Hays Lane as somewhere to park as this causes issues for the residents who are often unable to exit their drives because our Parents/Carers have parked inconsiderately and blocked them in. I'm sure you'll agree that as a school it's important that we build good relationships with the local community. Please help us to do this by being respectful, considerate, and thoughtful and not using Hays Lane as a car park. Thank you.

Gail Steele
Chair Safeguarding, Premises, Health and Safety sub-committee

Finance and Staffing

The budget continues to be a challenge. We are monitoring the situation very carefully and making any necessary adjustments to manage the expenditure without it impacting on the quality of education that we deliver.

Governors appreciate the fundraising events that WISA run to help support the provision of "those little extras" for the children. The WISA committee all work very hard to deliver these events and Governors are very grateful for their help, and that of Parents and Carers in supporting the fundraising events.

Gail Steele
Chair – Finance and Staffing sub-committee



Personal Statement from Adina Murataj

I find the opportunity of becoming a Parent Governor a real privilege. I hope to join the governing body because I would like to make a difference to the lives of all children and assist in the continuing development of the school's performance to ensure every child receives high quality education and unique life-experiences which form the foundation of responsible, successful citizens in the 21st century.

In terms of my skills and background, I have had the opportunity to work in ethnically diverse schools where I have embraced a wide range of opportunities and worked in varied contexts to shape my strong vision for improving education. I am currently a teacher and a member of the leadership team at a junior school in Warwickshire. In my current role, I play an integral role in the development of our school. I lead on whole school initiatives and strategies, report to Governors, work in partnership with the Headteacher and as a team, we drive the school to success.

With over ten years of valuable experience in education, I am confident that I could offer dynamic, collaborative and solution-based thinking through strategic and focused leadership.



Personal Statement from Katy Brown

My name is Katy Brown, I have a four-year-old son who has recently started in reception and I have a one-year-old son. I work for a family run business in Hinckley where I work as an Estimator.

I would be honoured to join the Governors Board as I feel that as a new parent to the school that I can bring new ideas and suggestions. I am passionate about ensuring that each individual child is given the opportunity to be the best that they can be, but most importantly, be happy and safe.

I will be supportive of my fellow board members, along with Mrs Ruane, but also challenge them to ensure that each child receives the very best education. I am not afraid of asking difficult questions where needed.

I have come from a financial background so I can offer my experience in ensuring that the school's money is well spent. The future of the school is very important to me as it's our children's future. I will endeavour to make sure that our school continues on the right path and in the right direction for many years to come.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Do You Need Help?

Governors are aware that some of our parents/carers may need help to access our school, or the information that we send home. If you need help or support in anyway, please let Mrs Ruane, Mrs Knight or a member of staff know. Please don't feel embarrassed to ask for help, any requests will be treated in the strictest confidence. It is very important to us as a school that EVERYONE, including parents and carers, can access all aspects of our school life wherever possible.

At Westfield Infant School we use Class Dojo to share information and to help support learning between school and home. You can download the app on to your personal device. Each pupil should have received a letter with a QR code on to enable them to login to Class Dojo. If you have any problems accessing this app, please contact the school office.

Our 'School Story' section on Class Dojo will give you lots of updated information about school. Information will include diary dates and events, newsletters, reminders, and support for your family both at school and at home.

You will also have access to your child's class story. Teachers will regularly provide information, pictures and support tailored to your child's class and year group. Homework will be set on here and you will also be able to send and receive brief messages to and from class teachers.

Pupil Premium Grant (Free School Meals)

Please remember that if your circumstances have changed and your child is now entitled to Free School Meals (which is different to Universal Infant Free School Meals) the school can claim Pupil Premium Grant funding and offer you support in a variety of other ways.

The Pupil Premium Grant funding for school is only allocated once a year in January. In order to get the full funding the school is entitled to, we need to have all those families who are eligible registered as soon as possible.

The process is very easy and you can check entitlement by making one phone call:

**Tel: 0116 3056588 or 0116 305
7093**

If you need further information please ask Mrs Ruane or Mrs Babic as soon as possible.



John Poultney
(Vice Chair)



Jane Henderson



Rebecca Henson



Laura Jeffs



Dan Bassett



Reena Parmar



Anne Egan
(Clerk)