



Governors' Newsletter

Summer Term 2023



Dear Parents and Carers

Last week we were welcoming our new intake and their parents/carers to the school, and at the same time we are getting ready to say "Goodbye" to our Year 2 pupils. We hope that they have enjoyed their time at Westfield Infants and that they will be very happy at their new schools.

We will also be saying "Goodbye" to Mrs Sue Hugglestone. Mrs Huddlestone is a long serving and valued member of our LSA team. On behalf of everyone in school I'd like to thank her for her commitment to our school, and all the hard work and effort she has put into her role. I, for one, will miss her bright and cheery demeanour and her lovely smiling face. Mrs Hugglestone, we hope that you have a very long and happy retirement.

The Governing Board are also saying "Goodbye" to one of our very committed and long serving Governors. Mrs Bev Chilolo. We will miss her dedication to the school and all the time she has committed to her role. She has been a champion of Inclusion, and our SEND children, as well as supporting PE and Well-being. Thank you Bev, we are going to miss you.

Mrs Rebecca Henson has recently joined our Governing Board. She currently works at the Local Authority and joins us as our Local Authority Governor. She is very keen to be involved and has already undertaken several training sessions. Welcome to the team Rebecca, we are looking forward to working with you.

Governors were delighted that this term we, once again, retained our Inclusion Quality Mark (IQM) Flagship School status. The Westfield Team worked incredibly hard to make

sure that we are an Inclusive school and, as such, we are constantly striving to improve access to learning, wherever, and whenever we can.

Last week was the WISA Summer Fayre. Governors would like to thank the WISA committee for giving up their time, and for all their hard work in arranging events to raise money for the school. We'd also like to thank all our parents and carers who support the events so generously at a time when finances are so challenging for everyone.

As you know, Mr Squires is retiring at the end of this term. Mr Squires joined us as Head Teacher at one of the most challenging times for our country. For the first two years of his Headship he had to steer our school through Lockdown and the challenges of home schooling. The past two years have seen him leading the recovery programme from these events. As a result of this, our school is in a position to move forward and benefit from the changes he has made during his Headship. He leaves in place a strong Senior Leadership Team whom he has supported and encouraged to develop their skills. On behalf of everyone in school I'd like to thank him for his dedication to our school, I know that Westfield Infants means a lot to him and that he has felt privileged to be given the opportunity to lead our school. We too feel privileged to have been able to work with him. Mr Squires, thank you, we wish you a very long and happy retirement.

We will of course be welcoming our new Head Teacher next term, Mrs Jenny Ruane. Mrs Ruane has had a number of

days in school getting to know everyone. She has been working closely with Mr Squires to ensure a smooth handover. I know that she is looking forward to her new role, and we are looking forward to welcoming her to the Westfield Team.

Finally, on behalf of Governors, I'd like to thank all the Westfield Team, for their commitment and hard work. The challenges don't get any easier, but our Staff always go "above and beyond." Thank you everyone, you are amazing!

Governors would also like to thank all our parents/carers, for your support during the past year. I hope you have a lovely summer break, and look forward to meeting many of you again in the new school year.

Gail Steele
Chair of Governors

Safeguarding, Premises, Health and Safety

Safeguarding is an important part of our role as Governors and each year we carry out Safeguarding monitoring. This monitoring has been ongoing throughout the year and is now complete. I am happy to report that Safeguarding procedures are followed carefully.

Over the summer, as well as the usual deep clean, the following work will be taking place in school.

The Back Patio is being replaced with tarmac.

Heating pipes are being replaced in the main school building. This will complete the update to the heating system that was started two years ago.

Anti-glare film is being fitted on the windows of classes 1 – 6. This will help to make those classrooms more comfortable during sunny days and hot weather.

The Extractor Fan in the kitchen is being replaced.

These costs will be covered by the Local Authority, and do not come out of our school budget.

I am happy to report that there have been no Health and Safety issues reported this year. Mr Squires and Mr Mackinder carry out a Health and Safety audit. Fire drills have been carried out each term, and a Lockdown practice took place in the summer term.

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

Finance and Staffing

Although we received a small increase in our budget this year, like everyone else, the cost of living rises have affected our school budget too. The management team have worked hard to make small savings wherever possible that don't have an impact on staffing. Year on year this is proving more and more challenging.

We will have a new teacher joining us in the Resource Base next term. Mrs Brittany Brown. Mrs Brown has a lot of experience working with children with SEND and we are looking forward to her joining the Westfield Team.

Gail Steele
Chair of Finance and Staffing
sub-committee

As Governors we are always very interested to hear the views of our parents, carers and children and we can be contacted via the school office. We are open to suggestions as to how we can improve things for the benefit of the children, so if you have any ideas or feedback please let us know.



Achievement of Pupils

Once again we come to the end of a school year. We might think that “normality” has returned and the issues with Covid and lockdown are now in the distant past. Unfortunately, that is not the case; our pupils continue to show the effects of lockdown even two years after lockdown ended. The effects of isolation and reduced social interaction when they were very young has affected the social, physical and emotional development of many of our pupils and they are still catching up. So a big thank you must go to the staff for working so hard to overcome these issues with the attainment of our year 2 pupils being close to what we would normally expect. What is clear is that we have not yet built the same expectation for high levels of attendance that we had in the past. Our EYFS pupils have significantly lower attendance than EYFS cohorts pre-Covid and a number of our disadvantaged pupils struggle to get into school as often as we would like. In both groups there is a clear link between attendance and achievement. In short, if they are not at school we cannot teach them. We expect pupils to achieve around 97% attendance - that means that they should be out of school for no more than 2 days per term. Those who have under 90% will be out for 20 or more days per year - that’s a month off school and it shows!

As we come to the end of the year, we will be saying goodbye to Mr Squires. I’d like to thank him for his hard work and wish him well in his retirement. Next year will be full of change as we welcome Mrs Ruane as our new Headteacher who will bring some new ideas and new ways of working with her.

John Poultney – Chair of
Achievement of Pupils sub-committee

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.

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 Mr Squires or Mrs Babic as soon as possible.



Jane Henderson



Rebecca Henson



Laura Jeffs



Dan Bassett



Reena Parmar



Anne Egan
(Clerk)