

Westacre Infant School

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Governor Newsletter Autumn 2023

We would like to warmly welcome you all to the Autumn term at Westacre Infant School. We hope that all pupils have now settled in well and are enjoying their time at our school.

The Governing Body would like to express sincere thank you to Governors who have left us at the end of last academic year. Janine Wright was Chair of Governors for many years, supporting the headtecahers, staff and governors with commitment and dedication shown to the school. Hayley Curtis-Gaze was also a governor for a substantial amount of time, starting when her children attended the school and then continuing as a Co-opted governor. Mrs Price was a valuable addition as staff governor last academic year. An extended thank you to you all on the continued service and dedication to the school over the years.

We would also like to send thanks to Mrs Lane who retired in the summer term. She was the longest serving member of staff at Westacres and made an incredible impact on the countless children who came through the school. We wish you a lovely retirement.

Governing Body meetings



As Governors, we are here to support the school and work as a 'critical friend' to the Leadership Team. Our job is to work as a democratic team, helping the Headteacher to make decisions about the strategic development of Westacres. We are all very proud to be able to be a part of such a wonderful school.

Our first Governing Body meeting of the 23/24 academic year was held at the school on 12th September. During the meeting we elected our Chair and Vice-Chair for the year and appointed Link Governors.

Our link governors have already begun some of their visits with an eye to looking at various aspects of the curriculum, what your child is learning and why. This is one of the ways in which we hold your Headteacher to account and ensure that all children are making good progress and that intervention is put in place to support those who may need some extra help.

Our next scheduled Governor meetings are:

- Tuesday 17th October
- Monday 4th December
- Tuesday 6th February
- Monday 18th March

Message from the Chair of Governors:

I have had the honour of being elected as the Chair of the Governing Board and would like to welcome all our families and staff back to school for the new academic year. A special welcome to all our new starters who I had the pleasure of meeting at school during the first few weeks of term. I'm sure you will all thrive and get the very best from your years at Westacre Infant School. I also look forward to meeting parents and carers at various events and activities throughout the year.

Anna Dalton – Chair of Governors

Westacre Infant School Governing Body:

Mrs Anna Dalton - Chair of Governors

Mr Aidan Edmunds - Headteacher

Mr Ajay Patel – Vice-Chair

Vacancy – Staff Governor

Mrs Lucy Rook

Mrs Bhavisha Patel

Cassie McCalliog

Gurdip Sangray

Poonam Panesar

2x vacancies (to be advertised soon)

Please visit our governor section on the school website where you can find Pen Portraits and link governor roles.



Governor School Visits and Link Governor Roles



Part of our role involves us being active in school which enables us to see evidence of policies in action, gain first-hand knowledge of the working of the school, get to know the staff and pupils and offer support where it is needed. We have each been appointed a Link Governor role for this academic year which will help us to plan and focus our school visits on certain areas. The Link Governors for this year are:

Safeguarding/Child Protection: Anna Dalton, Bhavisha Patel and Poonam Panesar

Early Years: Bhavisha Patel and Cassie McCalliog

SEND: Anna Dalton

Reading and Writing: Lucy Rook

Maths: Ajay Patel and Gurdip Sangray

Health & Safety: Lucy Rook

Pupil Premium: Ajay Patel

Attendance and Wellbeing: Cassie McCalliog and Poonam Panesar

Summer Term Parent Questionnaire

Thank you for completing the parent questionnaire at the end of the summer term. There were 69 replies overall. Some of the responses have been captured below:

- 100% of parents who completed the questionnaire reported that their child was happy at school.
- 94% report their child achieves well academically at the school.
- 86% report their child has access to a range of wider experience and after school clubs that contribute to their personal development.

What you said:

"We've really enjoyed the opportunities that have been given to allow us as parents to attend activities at the school. The trip to the Grand Theatre was a fantastic choice."

"I am really pleased with all the support I receive for my child. The school are very understanding of my child's needs and are a great support in school and at home."

"They show care and attention and demonstrate action when needed."

School Development - Priority Focus

As governors we work hard to monitor the impact of the School Improvement Plan. Most of the work we do as governors is centred around the school improvement priorities. In this newsletter, we will put the spotlight on maths.

The school are working hard to develop the maths offer across the school. Mrs Guest is the maths lead for the school and has already implemented a number of new strategies to raise the profile of maths. These include:

- Monitoring of support and challenge across maths lessons.
- Displaying interactive maths displays in all classrooms to develop independence and enrich vocabulary.
- Staff have had training on developing mathematical fluency which is now being taught in lessons.
- Ensuring a robust assessment system is in place to monitor each child's progress.



Attendance matters

Our school has a focus on Attendance this year. In the next newsletter I will update you on progress and explain how the Governors, especially our Safeguarding Link, work in supporting the schools and families to achieve good attendance rates which can only benefit academic and personal development.



Parents evenings this term are on **Wednesday 18th October** and **Wednesday 25th October**. There will be school governors available these evenings – please do come and say hello.

We always welcome your comments and suggestions, and you can get in contact with us through the school office.

Friendship, Honesty, Kindness, Teamwork, Perseverance, Respect