



Governors' newsletter – Autumn 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our first Governor newsletter for this academic year.

I am writing to you as one of the newer members of the Board of Governors as I wanted to let you know how well our school is doing as highlighted by our end of year academic results. I also wanted to explain a bit more about what the role of the School Governor is and who we are.

After another busy and successful year for the school in 2017/18 we now turn our attention to the new academic year and welcome our new children in reception.

At a headline level, our end of academic year results (known as attainment outcomes) for Early Years and Key Stage 2 are well above national average and Key Stage 1 is at or above national average. Year 1 and 2 Phonics were below national average and will be a key area of focus for improvement this year with action plans already put in place. We would like to thank the staff for all your hard work and you, as parents and carers, for your support that has led to these strong results. For further information, please see the [Summary of Attainment 2018](#) document which is also available on the school website.

Looking more broadly when I walk around the school as part of various visits and meetings, it is brilliant to see and speak to such committed, inspirational and caring teachers and support staff. Not forgetting the crucial role played by volunteers, parents and carers. During a recent visit I spent some time with year 5 (now year 6) and I was pleased to meet so many engaged children enjoying their learning. I also enjoyed experiencing the sense of community that helps our children to be happy at West Park and grow in confidence.

On behalf of all the Governors, I would like to take the opportunity of thanking all staff, volunteers, parents and carers alike who work so hard to make West Park such a great primary school.

Jonathan Monk

Parent Governor

What is a School Governor?

I'm sometimes asked what a School Governor is and, more importantly, what we do so I thought it would be helpful to explain a little more around the role of the Governing Board.

Our role and structure

At a high level, our role is to help shape the education our children receive.

Governing bodies include a wide range of people with different skills and backgrounds. Governors come from all sections of the community and we actively encourage diversity. They can be parents, staff at the school or residents from the local area with an interest in education.

We currently operate with a main governing board and two committees – one for education and one for business.

We have three strategic objectives:

- To ensure the vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school are clearly defined
- To hold the head teacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff
- To oversee the financial performance of the school and make sure its money is well spent

What do we do in practice?

- ✓ Take part in regular committee meetings
- ✓ Undertake regular school monitoring visits as it's important to get to know staff, children and how the school works
- ✓ Actively contribute to decisions made at meetings
- ✓ Ask lots of questions
- ✓ Agree and prioritise areas of focus for development
- ✓ Monitor the achievements and progress of children
- ✓ Agree policies and practice
- ✓ Agree and monitor financial budgets
- ✓ Appoint the head teacher and other senior staff
- ✓ Responsible and accountable for all major decisions about the school and its future

Who are the Governors?

Type of Governor	Who elects people into this role?	West Park Governor
Staff Governors	Elected by the staff of the school and include the Head teacher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs Caitriona Bull (Head teacher) • Position vacant
Parent Governors	Elected by parents as representative parents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr James Garner • Mrs Sarah Leadbetter • Mr Jonathan Monk
Foundation Governor	Appointed by Goring-by-Sea PCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs Barbara Webber
Local Authority Governor	Appointed by West Sussex County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Position vacant
Co-opted Governors	Invited onto the Governing Body because of their skills e.g. accountant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs Sarah Cook (Chairperson) • Mrs Kelly Davies (Deputy Chairperson) • Mrs Ann Manley • •

How to contact us

If you would like to learn more about the work of the Governing body or speak with one of the Governors, we can be contacted via Mrs L Light in the school office.

Email: office@westparksch.co.uk
Tel: 01903 243099