



Governors' newsletter – Summer 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to finish the 2018-2019 academic year with a newsletter to give you an overview of what has been an exciting, inspiring and successful time at West Park.

As you are aware funding within schools is a constant subject for discussion. West Park's Business Manager, Mrs Allwright, has won the 'Business Manager of the Year 2019 for Worthing, Adur and the whole of West Sussex. A well-deserved award as she, along with the Senior Leadership Team have worked incredibly hard to; maintain the staffing levels within the school, juggle a challenging budget and ensure the children have access to the teaching, support and resources they need to progress. Despite all the trials we are pleased to say that West Park has continued to progress, and recent results have been incredibly positive – no mean feat!

We are also incredibly grateful for the amazing support shown by you the parents, carers and children at the recent summer fair. Over £4000 was raised. This could not have been achieved without sponsorship offered by local businesses and parents. For this we thank you. Many of you have been in touch to ask how you can help to support the school – we are always happy to hear suggestions and will be in touch in September to share our plans.

The Governors have enjoyed the opportunities we have had to visit the school, be involved in lessons and classroom activities along with attending staff training. We have worked alongside teaching staff and support staff along with WSCC representatives to ensure that we can be an effective and developing Governing Body. A recent highlight involved some visits during Arts week when we were able to see the children bring some wonderful designs for t-shirts to life and express their creativity so beautifully. We hope that you enjoyed the exhibition as much as we did. So many of the children we speak to are engaged, enthusiastic and willing to tell us about school life. This is a true example of being part of the West Park family.

The PE has been incredible strong again this year with 51% of the children representing the school competitively. Activity levels are being increased across the school via the ACTIVE 10 initiative. This is where the school is aiming to get the children to be active for an extra 10 minutes a day, on top of their playtimes and travelling to and from school. It was trialled in Year 5 after the Easter holidays, with the rest of the school beginning to take part from May. West Park also achieved the Platinum Sports Mark and Platinum Quality Start awards, having gained the Gold awards last year. None of this would be possible without the amazing work done by the PE staff across the year.

Sadly, we say goodbye to two of our Governors this year. Mrs Barbara Webber who was foundation Governor for 6 years and supported the school in so many ways and Mrs Ann Manley, Support Staff Governor for 8 years who used her experience and expertise to advise the governing body. Both committed members who we will miss greatly. Thank you for your invaluable contribution over the years.

Most importantly we would like to extend a huge thank you to the Senior leadership team, teachers, LSAs, all support staff, admin and premises staff who work tirelessly to ensure the children are happy, safe and have progression in their learning at West Park.

The Board of Governors

We currently have some vacancies on the Board of Governors– please see the information below and contact us if you are interested in these varied and fulfilling roles.

What is a School Governor?

We are sometimes asked what a School Governor is and, more importantly, what we do so we 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">• Miss Fay Mangles• Vacancy
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">• Vacancy
Local Authority Governor	Appointed by West Sussex County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mrs Juliette Webb
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)• Vacancy

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
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