

Governor News

Autumn 2018

Wessex Parent and Carers

Welcome to our first Governor Newsletter- which will be sent out to parents each term, to update you on our visits to school and how, as Governors we have been carrying out our roles and responsibilities .

Remembrance Service

This annual event had a very special feel on the 100th anniversary of the end of the first World War. It was good to see how many parents were able to be there and how proud they must have felt to see the children assemble so respectfully around the flagpole and front garden. Pupils read poems clearly, articulating the feelings that the poet wanted to express and the whole school listened attentively to the story told by the teacher about the history of Remembrance day. Each class had created their own poppy wreath which pupil representatives helped by year 6's, laid beneath the flag. Finally 2 minute silence was observed to all.



We hope you find our first Governor Newsletter a source of useful information and interest. Talking with parents at the recent meetings, it was clear that few of those who spoke to us knew who the Governors are and what they are responsible for.

Clearly we as Governors need to be a more visible presence at Wessex, we need to communicate with you regularly and be aware of your views and aspirations for the school and its pupils.

So let's start by introducing ourselves and our roles within the school.

A school's Governing Body has 3 core functions:

- Ensuring that the vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school is clear.
- Hold Senior Leadership of the to account for the performance of the school and its pupils and the performance management of staff.
- Oversee the financial performance of the school, making sure its money is well spent.

Governor	Category	Committee	Link
Liz Herod	Local Authority	Standards Resources	Chair SEND Pupil Premium HT Appraisal
Paul Cash		Chair Resources	Finance Pay Committee
Robin Hawkins	Parent Governor	Resources	Sports Premium Pay Committee
Justin Hayes	Co-opted	Resources	Web site
Asha Grewal	Parent Governor	Resources	Health and Safety GDPR



A favorite family phrase or slogan can go here.



One of our key strategies for the year is “Developing the reading environment across the school”. As well as looking at a broad range of things across the school to support this strategy we know that one of the most important factors is how often the children read at home.

Listening to your child read is rewarding and enjoyable Please support them by doing this as often as you can.

Katheryn Russell	Co-opted	Standards	Vice Chair Pay Committee HT Appraisal EYFS
Martin Mahoney	Co-opted Governor	Standards	Safeguarding Looked After Children
Kat Eves	Staff Governor	Standards	Curriculum

Making the most of Outdoor Learning.

At a recent meeting of the Standards Committee, two year 5 pupils and their teacher Mrs Oliva came to talk with us about working in a small group, once a week in the afternoon, using the outside space, cooking and other activities designed to help their learning and develop their self-esteem and self-confidence.

It was great to see how these two pupils, normally quite shy individuals, were so eager to tell us what they had been doing – using natural materials to create pictures; independently following recipes; writing a story collaboratively.

They also talked about how they had worked so well as a team and used skills from their sessions on ‘Growth Mindset’

As Governors we have to make sure that the grant allocated to the school to support the learning of disadvantaged pupils – the Pupil Premium Grant – is spent effectively. The small group sessions organised by the school for all the pupils in year 5 who are eligible, certainly has had the right impact.

Parents Evenings and Trips/ Visits Questionnaire

Governors are always pleased to be able to join Wessex School Parents evenings and informally meet parents and pupils as they arrive for appointments.

On Thursday 1st November Mrs Maskell invited me to conduct a parent questionnaire about trips and visits. With the introduction of a more creative curriculum the school is reviewing its trips and visits offer and is keen to get the parent view on things like the frequency, cost and type of trip being offered.

173 parents completed the questionnaire and they elicited some really positive and interesting responses. In summary the majority favoured two visits per school year at a cost of up to £20 for a trip. There was a positive response about an option to pay by instalments and to consider class fund raising activities.

Perhaps the most informative part of the questionnaire were the additional comments and suggestions that you made. There was a general recognition of the value of trips and the value they add to learning. There were also observations about the timing and notice given. There was an excellent response to the section on parents able and willing to come into school and talk to a group about their job or hobby. What a variety of jobs and hobbies were suggested. Many thanks to all those who took time to contribute to the questionnaire. Mrs Maskell will be discussing the outcomes with the governors and hopefully you will see a trips/visits offer even better matched to your child's curriculum.

Finally at the next Parents evening, please have a chat to any governor representative. We are keen to hear your views on all sorts of issues and next time we may not have a questionnaire to conduct.

Martin Mahoney