

Whitstone Community Primary School



"Learning for life."

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Dear Parents/Carers,

We are approaching the end of the Autumn term so now feels like a good time to share a governance update.

We've had a busy few weeks recruiting new governors on to the board. I'm pleased to announce that we now have two new parent governors, Emma Williams and Terri Ann Haynes. Both put themselves forward for election and both were appointed. We have also co-opted Sharon Tootil on to the board. Sharon lives locally and has a strong interest in education. Our final pending appointment to the board is Dan Cock, who you'll all know from the village shop. Dan has been a governor of the school in the past, so we're delighted that he's agreed to join us.

When appointing new governors we follow a careful, safe recruitment process, involving formal application forms, seeking references and undertaking full safeguarding disclosure and barring service checks. We've completed all of these steps for Emma, Sharon and Terri Ann and will hopefully complete all for Dan before the end of term.

This brings our governing body up to a complement of eight, alongside Richard, Lee, Gerry and myself. I'd like to thank our clerk, Caroline Stone, who has ably overseen this appointment process for us and to welcome the new members of our team.

Having more people on the board of governors allows us to fulfil our role better, and Emma, Sharon and Terri Ann all attended training last month to allow them to become an active part of the team. We've allocated the following roles for the governors to focus on:

Chair of Governors	Jackie
Vice Chair of Governors	Lee and Richard
EYFS	Sharon
Pupil Premium	Lee
SEND and more able	Lee
Safeguarding and Online Safety	Emma
Curriculum Development	Sharon
Pupil Progress and Attainment	Lee
Health and Safety	Richard
Attendance	Lee
Sports Premium	Emma
Health and Wellbeing	Terri
Finance	Dan

This term we've been concentrating on our priorities in our school development plan.

Priority Areas for Whole School Development

1. Secure the sustainability of the school and establish a strong vision with a culture of high expectation
2. Develop middle leadership roles to consistently improve the quality of teaching and learning
3. Ensure pupils make consistently strong progress across year groups and subjects, especially in Key stage 2 and in writing
4. Refine and embed our curriculum to reflect the new Ofsted EIF, developing and clearly communicating our curriculum intent, implementation and impact

The governors assisted Mrs Mould in the permanent appointment of Miss Burt last week. We're delighted to welcome Miss Burt to the team as this will bring stability and strength to our staff team. We've also been pleased to welcome Miss Houghton back to Sapling, and are very grateful to the Celtic Cross Academy Trust for lending us such an experienced and committed SENDCo as Miss Shields. We've been sad to say goodbye to Mr Carpenter as a member of staff, he's been such a wonderfully positive member of the team and we're very grateful to him. We're pleased that he'll remain a friend of Whitstone as a parent. We've also welcomed new children to our school this term, which is excellent to see our Whitstone family growing.

We'd like to thank the parents who came to meet us on our 'coffee and cake' day on November 25th. We found it really valuable meeting people face to face to talk openly about any concerns they had (either theirs or ones they'd heard on the school gate), but also to hear how settled and happy their children are. There were some questions that as governors, we couldn't answer, but we've talked through all aspects of the meeting with Mrs Mould and she was able to wholly reassure us. This seems a good time to give a gentle reminder to all parents that if you ever have any queries or concerns that you'd like answering, please do go straight to Mrs Mould and she'll be pleased to help you. We recognise that we are always on a journey of improvement. We try really hard to get things right for you and your children. Do share with us when we get things right and also when we could do something differently or better.

We are intending to offer a coffee and cake meeting every term from now on. **Our next meeting will be at 2pm on Tuesday 4th February....**please do pop in and say hello.

Very best wishes for a merry Christmas and a happy new year

Jackie Eason

Chair of governors, on behalf of the governing body of Whitstone school