



# Wootton Lower School Governors newsletter to Parents

Summer 2017 (1)



Dear Parents,

Firstly, I would like to say, hello, as I introduce myself as the new Chair of Governors at Wootton Lower School and to the first newsletter to parents from the governors.

I have been a Parent Governor here for the last four years and Chair of the Standards sub-committee for three of those. In September, I began to share the role of Chair with Councillor John Wheeler so that I could undertake training and be supported in my development. John has now stepped down as Chair, but into another role within the Governing Body, which reflects his community involvement more. I wish to say thank you to Councillor Wheeler for his support and look forward to the opportunities his new role on the Governing Body will offer Wootton Lower School.

To enable parents and carers to communicate more effectively with the Governing Body there is now an email address that you can use to contact us, [chair@woottonlowerschool.co.uk](mailto:chair@woottonlowerschool.co.uk). However, if you wish to make a complaint I must encourage you to follow the procedure set out in the school's complaints policy. This is available on the school website and enables us to treat any concerns appropriately, thank you.

### *What is the role of the governing body?*

As Governors, we are volunteers who take responsibility for ensuring that the school provides an effective and good education to the children within the school. To do this we have to undertake training and use skills we have developed in other areas of our lives to offer challenge and support to the Senior Leadership Team. The Full Governing Body meet at least once per term and we have sub-committees which also meet at least termly. One focuses on resources, such as finance, staffing and premises management and is Chaired by Mr Paul Woodman. The Standards Committee is Chaired by Mrs Kerrie Gobindram, this focuses on pupil performance, policies and factors influencing learning. Both committees share their work with the Full Governing Body so that we can ensure the strategic plan for the school moves forward. We are fortunate to currently have a strong team of committed Governors and Clerk with no vacancies. Our photographs can be located in the entrance to Bedford Road office and if you wish to find out

more about the skills our Governors have please find our biographies on the school website ([www.woottonlowerschool.org](http://www.woottonlowerschool.org)).

### *Endeavours*

We have seen lots of change here at Wootton Lower School over recent years with the expansion of our school to include Harris Way. This has been an education for us all and we continue to address matters as they arise. The staff have adapted well to the change in culture the larger school requires, whilst trying to maintain a small school feel. One opportunity we have to do this is sports day. The children on both sites mix with friends and siblings in different year groups on a site where they don't usually attend and either participate in sports day or enjoy other learning activities.

This year the children considered what it means to be British and the values associated with this in an age appropriate way. The older children also walk to Harris Way for end of term assemblies, which is a lovely time for them all to share and causes great excitement.

Having the split sites opened up an opportunity to invest in a school minibus, this has had multiple benefits for example, helping children who require additional visits to prepare to move sites and/or for middle school transition. It has also enabled us to offer a sibling club for parents, which has become a victim of its own success. We have also been able to take children to more interschool sporting activities, as transport is more readily available.

Funding that we have received as part of the development of housing in the area has enabled the school to develop its outdoor learning opportunities for the children. One example on each site being the new Astroturf areas that cater for multiple sports. We have also been able to improve some of the resources and topics to guide the learning of the children. This has been a lot of work for the staff but we hope that the children are starting to see the benefits.

The staff have also done amazingly well in tailoring the curriculum they deliver to the new national curriculum which was put in place two years ago. The demand on what children



