



December 2016

## Governing Body term update

*In this term update we will update you on the issues we have been discussing and decisions made over the last term. We will also use this opportunity to celebrate achievements at the school. On page 4 we have provided general information about the Governing Body including names and the committees for your information and future reference.*

### Autumn Term update

#### Mr Crilly is leaving us

You will now already be aware (via a letter sent to parents and carers yesterday) that Mr Crilly has handed in his resignation and will be leaving us at the end of the Spring term. We would of course like to wish him well for the future and thank him for the tireless dedication and commitment that he has shown towards the school since he joined us three years ago. There is no doubt that the school has come a long way in a short time under his leadership.

As soon as we have more information on Mr Crilly's replacement we will of course let you know. Please be reassured that Governors are fully focussed and committed to improving the school and making it the best it can be for our children, parents and staff.

#### School Performance – 'Top 10 performing school'

In the latest school tables for Wolverhampton published by the Department for Education, Woodthorne Primary School has once again performed extremely well. The school has now achieved its best results to date and is now listed as the sixth best performing school in Wolverhampton (as at the end of Key Stage 2 – Y6). This is a great achievement considering that in 2012 we were ranked in 47<sup>th</sup> place.

We have achieved our best Early Years Foundation Stage results in over 5 years. In addition, we have had our best ever Year 1 phonics results and excellent Year 2 results under the new curriculum tests.

This is fantastic news and we are proud of our children, teachers, school staff and parents who have made this happen. We are delighted that we continue our improvement journey to reaching outstanding status.

We also continue to exceed the national average in terms of pupil school attendance.

The school is also working closely with another three local schools in a collaborative learning project where we are developing school to school support. This project will consist of a series of reviews carried out at each school

by the other schools. Woodthorne's review is due to take place on the 10 January and we will share with you the findings next term.

Governors will continue to closely monitor the school's attainment and overall performance.

### **Welcome to our new co-opted governor**

The Governing Body has recently appointed a new co-opted Governor Mrs Anu Gibson. We are delighted to have Anu on board and we look forward to working with her. Mrs Gibson replaces Dr Claire Grant, who resigned in the Summer; we thank Claire for her support and wish her well.

### **School vision and values**

At the end of last term parents and carers were given an opportunity to contribute to developing a new set values and vision for our school. This term governors have met with the PTA to discuss further ideas for the school. We will shortly be talking with the school council about our suggestions and we will be looking to launch by the end of the school year.

### **Extracurricular activities**

This term and because of reduced funding to the school we have been forced to introduce a £12 per session charge for the hire of the hall to external providers. However, we are pleased to see that the school continues to provide a range of extra-curricular clubs; Football, Spanish and Karate.

### **Parents & Community**

#### Parents and Teachers association PTA

It goes without saying that we continue to thank the Parents and Teachers Association for their tireless efforts for raising well-needed monies and equipment for the school. This term they have funded the licensing costs for Education City which provides key online resources for both staff and pupils. In addition, you may have seen the brand-new learning shelter outside the Key Stage 1 hall as well as the new playground markings and the floor logo in the KS2 playground. These are well needed additions to the school.

As usual the school Halloween Discos were a huge success and the Christmas Fayre raised £1000 for the school.

As Governors, we will endeavour to attend PTA meetings.

*Picture: Mr R Khular, chair of the PTA with Mr Crilly, parents, Lesley Stamps and Julie Phelps and pupils Nihal Khular and Sophie Phelps next to the new learning shelter*



## Communication with parents and carers

The Governing Body is keen to make sure that parents and carers are kept well informed about their children's performance and the school in general.

Through a recent survey (Nov 2016) we were reassured that parents and carers have told us that 100% of children enjoy school and that the majority feel safe, well informed on their child's performance and about the school and that school responds well to parent and carer concerns.

The school's recent numeracy parent open sessions were well attended and feedback from parents has been overwhelmingly positive, however, we know that we can do more in terms of helping parents and carers to support their child's learning as well as further developing our homework policy and we will be exploring this at future governor meetings.

You may be aware that following technical issues with Parent Mail we have now decommissioned the provider and the school is currently seeking a new online platform. It has been a very frustrating time but hopefully we will be able to find a solution soon that parents who in addition to having online instant communication will be able to pay for trips and lunches electronically.

As a Governing Body, we are clear about the benefits of having a well informed and involved parent and carer community and we would like to thank you for your continued support.

## **Grounds maintenance and building improvements/repairs**

We have seen a number of grounds maintenance improvements, particularly in relation to school lighting in the Key Stage1 and 2 halls as well as the window and fascia replacement for the KS2 hall, and we are delighted with our newly resurfaced Key Stage 1 playground. We are extremely grateful to the contractors (name) who also resurfaced the area next to the KS1 Hall free of charge.

## **Congratulations and thanks**

The school continues to achieve many successes and we are extremely proud of everyone's achievements. Congratulations go to the whole school for organising an amazing Children in Need day where they raised over £1000 for the fabulous charity.

Other events worthy of praise are the Diwali and International day celebrations (to name but a few) and we would like to thank parents and carers for taking the time and effort dressing their children in such fantastic outfits.

The Christmas performances as usual were amazing and we would like to congratulate the children for their fabulous efforts.

Finally, we would like to thank parents, pupils and staff for their continued efforts in raising the bar at Woodthorne. Your commitment is evident and we commend you for your support.



*We wish all parents,  
pupils, and staff a merry  
Christmas, a happy  
New Year and we and we  
will see you in January*



## The Governing Body

The Governing Body has an important role in the smooth running of the school and is responsible for:

- Aims and policies
- Appointment of staff
- Special educational needs
- Relations between the school and the community
- Use of the school premises
- Agreeing and monitoring the school improvement plan
- Equal opportunities
- Management of the school budget
- Admissions
- Discipline and attendance
- Complaints procedures
- Charging arrangements
- Provision for sex education

These areas develop through a partnership between the head teacher, school staff and local authority. The Full Governing Body meets twice a term, and the head teacher produces a progress report for each term. A number of committees meet usually once a term (or when required, as indicated \* see over the page) and report to the full Governing Body.

### Governors (*alphabetical*)

Name	Governor type	Tenure period
Mrs. S. Brooks (Vice Chair)	Parent	25.02.13 – 24.2.17
Mr. J Crilly (Head Teacher)	Staff	Permanent member
Mrs. A Gibson	Co-opted	01.12.16 – 30.11.20
Mr. P Farmer	Co-opted	02.11.15 – 01.11.19.
Ms. N Kimbell	Co-opted	18.01.16 – 17.01.20
Mr. I Rispin	Local Authority	08.09.15 – 07.09.19
Ms. K Sidhu	Co-opted	18.01.16 – 17.01.20
Mrs. R. Stanley (Chair)	Co-opted	02.11.15 – 01.11.19
Miss K. Titley	Staff	25.02.13 – 24.02.17
Mrs. A. Turley	Parent	25.02.13 – 24.02.17
Mr. J Welsby	Co-opted	02.11.15 – 01.11.19

### Committees (*\*indicates meetings held only when required*)

Resources	Pupil discipline*	Appeals*
Curriculum and Standards	Staff dismissal *	
Appraisal *	Health and Safety*	

If you have any queries about this newsletter or would like to contact the Governing Body please telephone or email the school or email:

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