



Governor Update

21st December 2020

To all of the staff, parents, carers, children and wider Woodthorne community,

At the end of the first term of this academic year, we wanted to express our sincere thanks to all of you for your continued support and co operation through this collectively challenging period. The last 9 months has posed unprecedented challenges both personally and professionally and has required all of us to adapt in different ways.

For schools the challenge has been immense in coordinating the safety and wellbeing of all children and staff, whilst also maintaining a focus on providing a quality education. Since April, they have responded to continually changing guidance at very short notice, as well as mobilising new ways of delivering teaching and learning.

Initial lock down required teachers to do extensive planning and researching of new learning resources and aids to provide a weekly curriculum based programme of home learning for all year groups. In addition there was the co-ordination of up to 100 key worker children in "bubble" groups being taught in school daily, along with the return of Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 groups in June. Funding was then received to support the set up of a safe and secure technology infrastructure to support online learning sessions via Teams to all children which went live at the end of the summer term.

The safe and secure return of all children and support staff in September required a huge amount of logistical co-ordination in line with guidelines. However, the biggest focus was ensuring that children's emotional well-being was protected as they returned. Careful planning went into ensuring that the curriculum was targeted to recognise and support children in reflection and transition back into school life and learning. Early term assessments have allowed teachers to also identify any additional targeted support that was required for children to pick up on any gaps from the summer term.

The scale of activity has required a high degree of change and adaptability and we would like to say a huge thank you to all of the staff for their unwavering commitment to working through all challenges to make sure children, parents and carers continue to be supported during this time.

Governors would also like to take this opportunity to recognise the incredible efforts of Woodthorne's senior leadership team who have worked tirelessly along with the wider MAT over the last 9 months. We could not have asked for more from them all and especially from Mr Hinkley who has led his staff and the school admirably through the extreme pressures faced. We hope parents and carers join us in saying how proud we are of Woodthorne's fantastic teaching and support staff.

Over the summer there have been a number of improvements to our school site with an extensive refurbishment of the key stage 2 building to improve the learning environment. We have also welcomed all our new reception children and their parents and carers and whilst it is a slightly different experience to normal, we hope they are settling in well. Welcome also to our new PTA who have already been coordinating some fantastic Christmas fund raising this year.

We appreciate that this has been a frustrating time for everybody, but we have all been impressed with the resilience of our children in particular who continue to bring nothing but pride to Woodthorne. As we move forward our priority remains ,as ever, on the children, and there is a clear strategy and resource support in place to help them reach their full potential, despite the recent challenges. We look forward to your ongoing support for the school when we return in the new year.

Wishing you all a peaceful and happy Christmas and start to 2021.

Woodthorne Primary Governing Board



Woodthorne Governing Body

Woodthorne Governors

Anu Gibson (Chair)

Ranjit Khular (V. Chair/Parent Governor)

Ian Moore (Parent Governor)

Vicky Baker

Poonam Panessar

Jennifer Ferretti

Tom Hinkley (Head Teacher)

Lucy Hodkiss (Staff Governor)

Our focus

The governing body regularly reviews the work and processes of the school to ensure continual improvement. Our priorities are around 4 key pillars:

- Ensuring we have a clearly articulated vision and supporting values
- Supporting delivery of consistent teaching basics
- Focus on pupil progression across their school journey
- Ensuring pupils and staff reach their full potential

Activity plans and progress against these are reviewed alongside performance data in termly governing meetings and standards committees.

Governor Contact:

We would encourage any feedback on your child to be raised with their class teacher first. If you have any questions about the school these can be directed to Mr Hinkley or you can governors directly on

governorswoodthorne@perryhallmat.co.uk