



Hello Everybody

This newsletter is intended to keep members of the school community up to date with activities at school from the perspective of the Governing Board. We intend to issue Newsletters regularly so that you are kept aware of what is happening at school now, and what is planned for the future.

Further Academic Progress!

Further evidence of significant progress in key subjects has been reported by the Interim Headteachers in the recent test results. Do look out for them in the school bulletin. It is very pleasing to see that our pupils are developing a sound foundation of skills in maths and literacy. In many cases, the results are comparable with national expectations, which is a great improvement from this time last year.

This progress results from hard work by the pupils themselves, taught by skilful staff, and supported by their families at home. Well done, everybody, you are making a strong positive difference for Westcott's pupils!

Academisation

We were very surprised and disappointed to hear that ODBST have chosen to withdraw from taking Westcott CofE into their Multi-Academy Trust. A key reason cited for this was the lack of a long-term lease on part of the school site: this is all of the school land behind the main school buildings. It's used not just for play and forest school, but also for the library and other teaching space.

The governing board is working with ODBE and Bucks Council to understand the implications of the ODBST decision and the land issue.

Year 5 and 6 End of Year Performance

It was a great pleasure to attend the performance by years 5 and 6 recently. A very entertaining presentation with comedy dialogue and songs. It was great to see so many of the children engaging with the show with such commitment and enthusiasm, regardless of whether they aspire to become pop stars! Luckily the rain held off long enough, and the performance was well attended by our families.

A big thank you to Miss Cobb for her work preparing and directing the show.

After the show, our Year 6 pupils were given their **Leavers' Hoodies**, which they were invited to wear in school until the end of term. Generous funding by the PFA meant that all Year 6 pupils could have a hoody. **Thank you, the PFA.**

We wish our Year 6 pupils every success in the next stage of their education.

Staff

At the end of this academic year, we say farewell to some members of staff. All have done great work at Westcott - some for several few months, and some for many years. There is not space here to recount all of their achievements and fine qualities, but we thank them heartily for all that they have done at Westcott. We wish them well as they move on to the next stage of their career, or to retirement.

- Shirley Bush – LSA (Lime Class)
- Jacquie Coles – Interim Headteacher
- Karen Harvey – Bursar
- Madame Stephanie Lepelletier – French Teacher
- Brenda McNally – Yr5/6 Supply Teacher
- Keith Nettleton – Maintenance and Site Management Support
- Kim Nettleton – School Administrator
- Vanessa Ort – EY LSA, and previously in other roles
- Paula Shaw – Interim Headteacher
- Alison Spratley – Yr3/4 Supply Teacher
- Louise Tibbetts – LSA (Lime Class)
- Donna Webb – EYFS Teacher

Leadership and Governance

We thank Mrs Coles and Mrs Shaw for their fine leadership of the school over the last two terms. They have overseen huge improvements in school operations and academic results, as reported previously. Mrs Coles kindly gave us an extra term, having formerly planned to retire at Easter. Mrs Shaw is unable to continue with us, as an ODBST employee.

We hope that the situation with respect to the permanent headship role will become clearer, very soon. Meanwhile, **we look forward to welcoming Mrs Dennis, an experienced Headteacher, as interim Headteacher in September.**

The governing board will remain into the next academic year. Note that:

Mr Lewin will not be standing for re-election as Chair from September, and **we will announce the new Chair after our first meeting of the new term.** Mr Lewin plans to remain as a governor at least until Christmas, to ensure a good handover to the next Chair.

The governing board has vacancies for Parent Governor and Foundation Governors. **Do contact us if you would like to help the school on their journey, by serving on the governing board.**

Thank you for reading this newsletter.

Jonathan Lewin

Chair of Governors, on behalf of the Governing Board, Westcott CofE School

Contact: jlewin@westcott.bucks.sch.uk