



### **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.

### **Welcome to new pupils and new staff**

We would like to welcome everyone to school this term, especially those who are joining the school for the first time.

New pupils have joined us in both Key Stages 1 and 2. We thank them and their families for choosing Westcott CofE School, and we hope that they will enjoy their education with us.

We are delighted that we have very able permanent full-time teachers in place for each class, with a great team of teaching assistants and support staff in place too.

Many of you will already have had contact with Mrs Gaunt, who is now running the School Office.

Mrs Dennis, our Interim Headteacher, is leading the school into it's next phase of development. She wants to be as open as possible about teaching and learning at school, so please do ask her and your teacher if you have questions or concerns.

### **Governing Board Membership**

We are in the process of growing membership of the governing board. In particular, we will shortly be looking to elect a Staff Governor and up to two Parent Governors. Do please consider whether you would like to help guide the school as it progresses further. Just ask if you'd like more information or a discussion about school governance.

As announced last term, Mr Lewin is stepping down as Chair of the Governors' Board this year. We will let you know about the new Chair in after our October meeting.

### **Love, Perseverance and Trust - Our School Values**

These values were established back in Summer Term, and are now well established as guiding principles for our school. There is much more detail on our Vision, Values and Aims under the "Our Church School" tab of the school website.

### **Growth Mindset**

This is a set of skills and attitudes that are helpful in learning situations. Many are skills that you will already be familiar with. Combining them as a consistent model makes it easier to understand how they work together to help us persist and progress with our learning. Look out for more information about Growth Mindset and how it can be helpful for all of us as we grow our abilities.

### **Ofsted and School Improvement Plan**

The school has shown major progress over the last 18 months or so. We continue to be supported by colleagues from both Oxford Diocese and Bucks Council. Regular "Team Around The School" meetings are used to share advice, set targets and monitor progress. A School Improvement Plan is being formalised so that everyone will be clear about our goals for this year.

We had a monitoring visit from Ofsted last term, which reported very encouraging progress. We expect to have another visit this term, which will be an opportunity to demonstrate how the school continues to improve.

### **PFA**

The school's **Parents & Friends Association** has a consistent history of raising funds to help the school purchase helpful resources and equipment. This has ranged from funding Chromebook computers to ensuring that every year 6 child had a leaver's hoodie. Please look out for PFA events and support them if you can.

### **Refurbishments to the main school building.**

If you went past the school over the summer holidays, you may have noticed signs of building work taking place. This was refurbishment of the upstairs rooms in the main school building. We now have fully safe and presentable spaces there. We hope that this will prove to be a useful space for storage and for staff to use in lesson preparation activities.

Thank you for reading this newsletter.

*Jonathan Lewin*

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

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