



# Wimbledon Chase Primary School

## Governors' Newsletter

### Opportunity, Inspiration & Celebration

**WELCOME!** Hoşgeldiniz! 환영합니다 أهلا بك

欢迎 Witamy! স্বাগত Bienvenue! स्वागत છે ようこそ

Benvenuto! καλώς ήρθατε स्वागत हे Bemvenida!

добро пожаловать خوش آمدید Welkom! Sveiki!

A very warm welcome from us on the Governing Body to all the new families joining us in nursery, reception and throughout the school from the UK and around the world. We look forward to meeting you at some point soon - whether virtually or in person!

We are so pleased that the school is open to all pupils and hope that children and parents are enjoying being back. We know how much work Jill, the Senior Leadership Team and all the staff have put in to make the reopening a success. We thank them all for their time and dedication. Huge thanks also to all parents and children for adapting to the new rules for our school.

#### Re-opening and virtual learning

A key priority for Jill and the SLT since the summer break has been to develop a full remote learning plan. This has now been shared with you, and the feedback so far has been very positive. This is the product of significant work and development, building on the virtual learning platform which was in place from March to July. It reflects much of the feedback from parents, children and staff over the period of the lockdown. Thank you for providing us with that feedback and please do continue to do so as things progress.

As a Governing Body, we have been working with Jill and the SLT to oversee the school reopening plans and risk assessments, in conjunction with our two medical consultants from the parent body (about whom more later) and Merton council. We fully support the school's current approach to minimising community transmission and are continuing to support Jill and the SLT as they regularly update these plans to take on board more recent Government guidance, in light of the recent rise in Covid cases.

We all need to continue to work together to keep the school community as safe as possible at this time. Please remember to follow the guidance from the school on drop-off and collection times, the one-way system, not congregating on the school grounds or in Chase Alley, consider wearing a mask whilst on school grounds, and following the advice on what to do if your child is unwell. There are regularly updated FAQs and flowcharts to help with this which are available on the school website [here](#).

### Governing body priorities for autumn

At our September meeting, we agreed on our key priorities for this term: 1) **school health and safety** in light of COVID, and supporting the school's **new remote learning platform**, 2) monitoring **education levels** to ensure any necessary action is taken to support children's return to school, especially those who have been particularly disadvantaged by COVID 19; and 3) reviewing the school's approach to **diversity and inclusion** with a view to developing and implementing a whole school action plan.

You can find more information about the Governing Body, our members and our work (including minutes of the Full Governing Body) on the school website [here](#).

### Parent Engagement – virtual session

We are having a virtual parent engagement session for this term. The plan is to have an online forum with at least one parent representative from each class in the **w/c 12 October 2020**. Exact date / times to follow. If you cannot participate or prefer to share your thoughts directly, please email us at the chair address below.

### Welcome to our two new associate governors

Over the last few months Dr Elizabeth Whittaker (a consultant in paediatric infectious diseases and immunology at Imperial College London and St. Marys Hospital) and Mark Gilchrist (consultant pharmacist in infectious diseases at Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust) have been providing excellent medical advice on COVID 19 to Jill and the Governing Body. At our most recent meeting we agreed to appoint Liz and Mark as Associate Members of the Governing Body to reflect their regular input. This means that they are allowed to attend meetings where needed and can sit on Committees of the Governing Body to provide advice. However, they are not full members of the Governing Body and will not get to vote at meetings. Because of the challenges that COVID has posed to the school, they are an invaluable source of expertise and support to the school. Welcome and thank you!

### Parent Governor election and co-opted vacancies

We are inviting nominations for two new **Parent Governors**. Further information is being sent separately. Nominations will be due by 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2020.

We particularly welcome nominations from parents with experience in education, business development, and school finance. We would also like particularly to encourage parents to apply from groups which are under-represented on our Governing body and which reflect the diversity within the parent community (such as parents from BAME backgrounds and/or those with visible or non-visible disabilities and/or those with English as an additional language). We have a wonderfully diverse school and community and we are keen to see this diversity better reflected in the pool of nominees eligible for election by you. We believe that diversity, inclusion and equality are fundamental to making Wimbledon Chase Primary a successful and vibrant school. We aim to put inclusion at the heart of everything that we do and we all need to work hard to encourage and attract, develop and retain a diverse staff and Governing Body that reflects the diverse community that we serve. This is a collective responsibility.

There will be an opportunity to discuss this with current governors at the end of the virtual engagement session in w/c 12 October 2020. If you prefer to contact us privately, please do so at the email address below.

We also have two vacancies for **Co-opted Governors**. We are particularly keen to recruit individuals with experience in one, or more, of the following areas: education, business development, and school finance. We are not seeking to appoint parents of children currently at Wimbledon Chase to the Co-opted positions. However, we ask that if you know anyone in the local community that may have the relevant experience that you contact us via the Chair's email.

## Departures

The parent governor positions are available because, first of all, Jenny Willott has come to the end of her 4-year term as a Parent Governor. We are extremely grateful to Jenny for the time and skills that she has dedicated to the school over the last 4 years. Secondly, Zoe and her family are moving away from Wimbledon at Christmas so she will no longer be a parent at the school (although the intention is that she will continue on the governing body for the time being).

Maeve McKnight, who was appointed as our SEN Governor earlier this year, has unfortunately left the Governing Body due to a family move to Ireland. We are very grateful to Maeve for her work on the Governing Body, she has been a valuable asset to Jill and Mrs Warwick. We have found a new Co-opted Governor to lead on SEN issues and will announce this appointment in due course.

We are also saying goodbye to Alex Duncan, who has been on the Governing Body for over 6 years – initially as a Parent Governor and subsequently a Co-opted Governor. Alex also served as our Chair for 2 years. Alex dedicated many hours to her work on the Governing Body and we thank her for her commitment to the school.

## Summer Camp

We received excellent feedback about the Summer Camp provided by Mr Canham. We wish to thank Mr Canham and his team for putting together such a fun and well-received camp, which was a huge boost after a very difficult few months. Here is what one parent commented:

*“...the Wimbledon Chase holiday club has been FANTASTIC- my kids returned again this week as they loved it so much. I can't praise Mr Canham and the staff enough - it was like all of the best bits of school which the kids have missed rolled into one. It has been a real tonic for them to see friends and staff whom they love (and lovely that old faces returned and children of staff were involved too). I really hope that this is the club of the future - it really was superb.”*

Thank you all for all your support and do get in touch if you would like to.

Tom & Zoe

Co-chairs, Governing Body

Please drop us a line at [chair@wimbledonchase.merton.sch.uk](mailto:chair@wimbledonchase.merton.sch.uk) if you have thoughts or feedback.