



# 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!

Dear Parents

We hope that you are enjoying the autumn term so far and are looking forward to the forthcoming festivities in the final weeks before the holidays. We would also like to extend a very warm welcome from us on the Governing Body to all the new families that have joined us this year in nursery, reception and throughout the school from the UK and around the world. We hope you have settled in well and enjoy your time as part of the school community.

#### COVID UPDATE

The past 18 months have been very challenging for everyone in our community. Thank you to all our families and staff who have done an amazing job in managing a sustained return to the classroom, and especially to the students who have weathered the disruption and shown tremendous resilience in the process. The mental health and wellbeing of these students is paramount and the school has introduced supplementary measures, such as Emotional Literacy Support Assistants and a trained Child Mental Health First Aider, to provide timely support for children who may be displaying anxiety about school.

The Governing Body has continued to liaise closely with Mr Ellis and his senior leadership team regarding the Department for Education's changing operational guidance for primary schools and contingency frameworks for educational settings more generally. Furthermore, the school is participating in a COVID Resilience Project operated by the London Borough of Merton, which promotes the sharing of good practices and latest guidance with other participants, as well as continuing to maintain our COVID project team.

Through a combination of the Government's additional 'catch-up' funding (provided in response to the pandemic) and other school support programmes, the staff are endeavouring to accelerate pupil performance and to recover any lost learning.

As we all know COVID-19 is not going away and with the arrival of the colder weather and a return to indoor activities we all need to continue to work together to prevent the spread of COVID-19. As such, we ask for your continued support as a school community to observe any guidance issued by the school about COVID-19.

## PARENT ENGAGEMENT

All schools should be constantly seeking improvement, both by self-evaluation and also by taking on board feedback from parents, staff and children to identify the key areas of focus for the coming year (or years in some cases).

To this end, we will be sharing a parent survey with you next term and welcome your feedback. We are also in discussion about setting up a parent engagement session with members of the Governing Body and will also share details of this with you in due course.

As a consequence of the turmoil and additional pressures on staff arising from COVID-19, we temporarily reduced the volume of Governor meetings without compromising on content by expanding the scope of our Standards Teaching and Learning Committee to include the terms of reference of our Pupils and Community Committee. I'm pleased to say that we have now re-established our Pupils and Community Committee in its own right this term. This Committee has responsibility for the oversight of all matters relating to pupil welfare including behaviour and attendance, safeguarding, equalities and equal opportunities as well as engagement with parents and the community. Theodora Theodoratou and Allison Hamilton are the joint chairs of this Committee.

## OFSTED

OFSTED has updated its Education Inspection Handbook again and the school, together with the Governing Body, are preparing for an OFSTED visit. In this regard, an OFSTED working group has been formed by Governors and leadership across the school is being supported in staff meetings and through other preparedness measures.

## PARENT GOVERNOR ELECTION AND CO-OPTED VACANCIES

We are inviting nominations for one (1) new Parent Governor. Further information is being sent out separately. Nominations will be due by 10am on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December.

We also have vacancies for three (3) Co-opted Governors. We are not looking to appoint parents of current pupils at the school to the Co-opted positions. However, we are keen to fill the positions from within the wider Wimbledon community.

Do you have friends, neighbours or colleagues that would be willing to spare some time and join our school Governing Body? We are particularly looking for people with skills in financial management, business development and/or education – but don't let this be a barrier to putting someone forward who is interested and willing to support the school as a member of the Governing Body. Everyone from our whole community is welcome.

If you know anyone that would be interested, then I would be happy to arrange an informal chat about the role. I can be contacted via the Chair email address below.

## DEPARTURES

The Parent Governor position is available as Oddi Aashiem has stepped down from the Governing Body to focus on other voluntary commitments. Oddi has served on the Governing Body for three years and we are grateful for the time and skills he has dedicated to the school.

Thank you all for all your support and do get in touch if you have any queries.

Tom Jeans

Chair of Governors

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