



## Wheatfields Infants' and Nursery School

Acting Headteacher: Miss Clare Cockburn BEd NPQH

### Governor Newsletter Spring 2017

Firstly, some general issues then some thoughts from James Rodea regarding the recruitment process for a new Head Teacher.

#### Key Stage 1 Playground project

Thanks to the huge fund raising efforts of FOWI (Friends of Wheatfields Infants) and the successful application of a lottery grant (£10,000) by Caroline Churchill we are now in a position to order the playground equipment. The company we have chosen have offered a substantial discount if they can complete the work during term time and so we have decided that the work will begin straight after the Easter holiday.

#### Parentview

Once again thank you so much to all the parents who have completed the Ofsted survey known as Parentview. We now have 57 responses which Ofsted would now consider to be significant. If there are any parents who have not completed the survey it is not too late. Please register on the following link

<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/login?destination=give-your-views>

#### Governor recruitment

This term we have recruited two new governors; Debbie Chachulski who is a parent governor and was elected earlier this term and Father Grant Holmes who is the Vicar of St Mary's Church, Marshalswick and joins the governing body as a co-opted (community) governor. We now have a full complement of governors; five parents, six co-opted (community), one member of staff (elected), one LEA appointed by Herts Education Authority and the Acting Head Teacher, in total 14. Currently they are

|                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Vicky Penn          | Parent              |
| Hayley Gilbert      | Parent              |
| Heather Molsom      | Parent              |
| Debbi Chachulski    | Parent              |
| Mark Adams          | Parent              |
| Jennifer Hackett    | Staff               |
| Caroline Churchill  | Co-opted            |
| Chris Kelly         | Co-opted            |
| James Rodea         | Co-opted            |
| Craig Furner        | Co-opted            |
| Zoe Adams           | Co-opted            |
| Father Grant Holmes | Co-opted            |
| Roger Thomas        | LEA                 |
| Clare Cockburn      | Acting Head Teacher |

#### Roger Thomas

#### Chair of Governors

### **But isn't it just going to a few meetings.... James Rodea**

Is what people say to me when I tell them I am a school governor, if this was true I just would not bother. The role of a governor is multi faceted; we need to support when necessary and challenge when appropriate. Our role encompasses every aspect of school life from budgeting to staff, which brings me onto what I want to write about in this newsletter.

You will have read that Jane Whitehurst recently decided not to return from her sabbatical year; obviously this means that we need to find a new head teacher. Having been involved with recruitment for several years I assumed this would be an easy task, I was wrong.

The first task we completed was to form a panel of governors to undertake the recruitment process, the minimum suggested number is three and we chose five with a wide range of differing skills and experience. All five will have to go through each application in a shortlisting day followed by interviewing the prospective candidates. Candidates are not allowed to send in CV's, which are considered 'old skool' instead applicants are invited to apply by matching their skills to the job description and person specification. In the interview we will discuss and challenge the skills that have been disclosed and probe into the candidate's suitability to lead our school.

Before we reached this stage I attended a course in safer recruitment. As you would expect safeguarding is a number one priority, it is all of our responsibility to keep our children safe in school. A lot of the training related back to the lessons learned from Ian Huntley and the Soham tragedy that took place in 2002. We, together with all staff, constantly consider and review safeguarding, it is therefore essential that we scrutinise the background of any applicants and ensure the successful candidate is passionate about keeping our children safe.

Clearly there is considerable responsibility on Governors to make the right appointment, it is important that we maintain the School's Outstanding status. By Outstanding I do not refer solely to the Ofsted rating but the culture and level of commitment that runs right throughout the school. The new Head will bring a new vision and strategy and it is the Governor's responsibility to encourage, support and challenge them.

It is so much more than a few meetings!

**James Rodea**

**Co-opted Governor**