

Governors Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to our spring Governors Newsletter.

I have been a Governor for eight years. I was first involved with the Governing body when my two daughters attended Wheatcroft. Both my girls moved on to Presdales. My eldest is now at Bangor University, in her first year studying Zoology, and my youngest is halfway through her 'A' levels.

Their early years at Wheatcroft were very happy and my wife (Mrs Apostolos, year 3/4 Teaching Assistant) and I believe that this has given them an excellent platform to follow their dreams and ambitions.

I oversee the Health and Safety Policy for the school and have just taken the post of Vice-Chair of the Resources Committee. Recently I have been involved in the Sub-Committee looking into Academy status. The Governing body are working very hard and are committed to ensuring that the future of Wheatcroft continues to provide opportunities and maintain the core values which we are proud of.

As a Link Governor for; Learning Outside the Classroom (LOtC), Forest School and Physical Education, my role as Governor gives me an opportunity to observe lessons and activities and feedback to senior subject leaders.

We are very lucky to have Forest Schools and I am sure that your children enjoy and talk about spending time in that environment. Learning outside of the classroom also includes school trips and activities, which are linked in to the curriculum. Our Forest School activities are planned throughout the whole year and looking at the LOtC Audit for 2015-16 I can confirm that our children, from Reception to Year 6 took part in over one hundred activities, eighteen day trips/visits, ten individual small groups, three residential trips, eleven workshops and seventeen visitors and speakers were invited in to talk to the children. I am sure you would agree that this is an impressive list. Our subject leader Mrs Waller continues to work hard to organise, plan and develop this feature of our school. She is currently seeking to achieve our re-accreditation of LOtC silver award. Please visit our school website to keep up to date with our Forest School activities.

As I mentioned earlier, I also oversee our sports and PE. Mr Marks, who was our previous sports apprentice and is now training to become a teacher, has passed the baton to Mr Carter who continues to enhance our sports activities. Our recent results are showing an improvement, which illustrates their efforts and dedication. We have achieved runners up in sports hall cricket, which included boys and girls from year 5 and 6, and runners up in the recent six a-side football competition. We have also reached the final of the Hope Cup, a football tournament for local schools. We also took part in the dance festival, which took place at the Hertford Theatre a couple of weeks ago. Miss Brown is our PE co-ordinator and is very well supported by trained staff, the sports partnership and parents. Over the last year Wheatcroft has engaged our children in over 22 different sports/activities, including tournaments and sports hall competitions. These are in addition to the ongoing sports clubs, which operate during and after the school day. We must remember, 'It is not just about winning' but giving our children diversity and opportunity to engage in different sports and activities. Wheatcroft are currently in receipt of the Gold Active Sports Award.

I hope that this has given you a brief outline of my responsibilities as a Governor. Please feel free to approach any of us around the school during our visits. We wear bright orange lanyards.

Finally to end, I attended the LKS2 performance on Wednesday evening, The Mystery at Magpie Manor. It was thoroughly enjoyable. The drama, dance and songs were stunning. Everyone in the audience should be proud of the talent at Wheatcroft.

Well done boys and girls.