



Wheatcroft Primary School



A Word from the Chair of Governors

I have recently been elected as the new Chair of Governors, hopefully many of you have seen me at various school functions in the past (sometimes juggling). I have been a governor at Wheatcroft for many years and have been involved with the school since my eldest son started education some 24 years ago; serving on the PTFA for many years and assisting on school trips. Mr Skinner drew me into governance when the school was being considered for expansion, as I am an Architect and have spent the majority of my career working on school projects. Hopefully I can ensure our team runs smoothly and as well as challenging our leadership team, support them to ensure the education of your children is the best possible across the full curriculum.

Mr Skinner announced plans to retire and procedures for appointment of a new head were put in place. Following national advertising and a selection process assisted by the Herts for Learning HR team. The governors were very pleased to appoint Mrs Miller, who was the most outstanding applicant and has served the school well for many years, as the new Head teacher. With Mrs Waller as the new Deputy Head we have a strong leadership and we are confident that the new senior management team will be a great success.

Many long serving staff retired or moved on to new higher posts at other schools. We were sad to see them go but they are still in touch, Mrs Boylan playing the organ at the Christingle and Mr Skinner making a secretive appearance.

The governance team has also seen rapid change. Mrs Archer resigned as Chair of Governors due to a new and more time demanding role at work and Mr Grubb resigned at the beginning of the new year. We had a very encouraging response for the 2 posts of parent governor that were available and following the recent election we are pleased to welcome Mrs Adler and Mr Houldsworth to the board of governors. Thank you also to Mrs Bevan & Mrs Crowe for standing, we are very fortunate to have so many dedicated parents.

This term, the governors have invested a lot of time with a round of visits, performance monitoring, budget monitoring and various meetings. This all ensures we are able to support the leadership team in the smooth running of the school. Over the last few years we have been moving forward with a series of major fabric improvements to the 1970s school building. The re-roofing has been completed and a recent bid has been submitted to the County Council for funding which is necessary to ensure our premises are in good working order.

A new CCTV system, front entrance security measures and a bit of a lift to the entrance have been completed. We have seen great fund raising work by the PTFA again and this has helped to fund improvements which the school budget could not meet. We are now considering replacement of the oldest of our mini buses, these make it possible to provide economic trips for pupils and, not least, the opportunity for them all to attend swimming lessons at Hartham pool.

The governors wish you all a VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS and NEW YEAR, have a lovely time with your family and friends and we look forward to seeing you all refreshed and raring to go in January.

Best Wishes
John Drewery
December 2017