



Waynflete Infants' School
Academy for Early Learning



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"An Academy for Infant children where excellence and enjoyment of learning enable all to achieve"

19/07/2018

Chair of Governors Annual Review 2018

I wanted to write to you before the end of the year to introduce our new parent governor and to remind you about the work of the Governing Body.

We are very pleased to welcome Andrew Lowe to the Governors as a parent representative. He has worked in educational publishing, been Chair of Little Oaks, a voluntary TA at BJS and a volunteer at Southfield and with us. His daughter is just moving up to Year 1. In his nomination statement, as well as setting out what skills he could offer to the Governing Body he also commented that his experience had taught him how vital good governance is to support teachers and how important effective education is at primary level. He has knowledge of the curriculum, financial management and reporting. He is also very keen to encourage parental engagement which we welcome.

The Governors are responsible for all aspects of the school from the premises, staffing and budget through to the curriculum, outcomes and wellbeing of the pupils. We monitor the activities of the school in our termly Governing Body meetings and regularly discuss with staff specific areas of school life and corroborate this through visits to the school. This is a voluntary role and we are always looking for people with skills to offer the school. They need not be parents – so if you know anyone who would be interested in offering their time and expertise please ask them to contact the school.

It is very clear that home and school working together makes a positive difference to the wellbeing and achievement of pupils. For example teaching children to read is a partnership between school and parents and, as all the staff do, we would encourage parents to take time to read with their children as this has positive benefits for all areas of their learning.

Attendance is another issue where the school would like to work with parents. As governors we are accountable to the DfE for a number of measures. One of these is attendance. We have reviewed the attendance figures for this year and are disappointed at the overall figure which is below our target. We share the concerns raised by staff regarding some low attendance figures and support the efforts they have made to increase attendance for some pupils. It may seem that a few days off school at this age makes little difference but that is not the case. For example in Year R, pupils are learning phonic sounds which are the building blocks of reading. If someone misses school, a member of staff needs to catch them up with any phonics they have missed. This impacts on the other pupils as well as the one who has missed school. Next year as a school, and in partnership with BJS, we will be taking a more proactive role in encouraging attendance at school.



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There have been some great developments this year around the school. We are very grateful for the PTFA in their support of the school and particularly this year the EYFS area. This is much improved and has resulted in more outdoor learning. The PTFA has an important role in the life of the school and we welcome their fundraising which adds to the positive environment for the children. We are also grateful to the outside organisations that have provided us with their time and materials.

An important development for the school next year will be the after school provision. The plans for this are well in hand and it is fantastic that we are able to run this with existing staff who are well known to the children. We hope this will be well supported.

As always, the results of the SATs and Phonics tests are where we expected them to be and this is achieved through the hard work and dedication of our staff. Every year they work tirelessly to ensure each child reaches their potential. By this I don't just mean academic potential, but all those other skills that mean they are ready to move on in life and in their schooling. As always we would like to offer our thanks to all the staff, both teachers and support staff, without whom none of this would be possible.

We wish the Year 2's well as they move to BJS. The transition arrangements between the schools are well planned so we are confident they will settle in at BJS swiftly. We also look forward to welcoming the new Year R pupils in September.

Have a great summer! Hope the weather doesn't change as the holiday's start.

Yours sincerely



Alison Ranson
Chair of Governors
on behalf of the Governing Body



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