

Westover Green Community School

Governors Newsletter - January 2018



Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to the first edition of the Westover Green's Governors Newsletter. Twice a year we will report on what we have been up to, Governor priorities, school performance news and plans for the future.

Who are we?

We have had some changes within the Governing Body recently, I took over as Chair of Governors in Sept 2017 from Tina Fry who did a fantastic job as Westover Green's chair for 7 years, Tina put in a huge amount of time and commitment to Westover Green for which we are very grateful.

We have welcomed back Mrs Juliette Staunton as a governor and she has also taken on the role of Vice Chair since September 2017.

Since we converted to Academy status in August 2017 and became part of the Clevedon Learning Trust, Mrs Good is now Executive Head of Westover Green and Northgate and Mr Rosslyn is Head of School at Westover Green. This has been a significant change for Westover, however this has gone extremely smoothly and Mr Rosslyn and Mrs Good continue to do a truly fantastic job of overseeing the running of Westover Green.

Mr Steve Wheeler is the Finance Lead within the Governing Body. Steve has been a Governor at Westover Green for a number of years and has a wealth of knowledge and experience which is extremely valuable.

Mrs Davies is a representative from the teachers on our Governing Board, she is an extremely valuable member of staff at Westover and her skills, experience and views are an essential part of the Governing Body.

Mrs Bown has also been a very valued member of the Governing Body for a number of years. She has a number of different responsibilities within her Governor role as well as the fantastic work that she does day to day at Westover.

We would not be a functioning Governing Body without a brilliant Clerk and we are very fortunate to have Mrs Durrant as ours! Mrs Durrant does a superb job of keeping us informed of latest governor news, training opportunities as well as taking minutes in our meetings and keeping us on task.

Sadly Mrs Godfrey stepped down as being a Governor recently; she gave a lot of time to the Governors and was a hugely valuable member of the board. Fortunately Mrs Godfrey continues to work at Westover Green.

There is some further information about the Governors on the school website.

What we do

As school governors we are responsible for the vision and strategic direction of Westover Green Community School. We hold the Headteacher to account for how well pupils achieve and progress educationally, and for the quality of teaching. We also oversee how the school spends its money, making sure the school stays in budget and receives value for money.

As a Full Governing Body (FGB) we meet 4 times a year, additionally individual Governors have different responsibilities and attend other meetings that are necessary.

An important part of the governors' role is to monitor the academic standards our children are achieving. The governors are delighted to see that this continues to improve year on year.

Latest News

A new Autism Centre officially opened on 30th January 2018. This new 14 place facility for children with autism consists of two new classes; Oak Class (FS & KS 1) and Ash Class (KS2), together with a sensory room and calm room. We are very impressed with how smoothly this went, with very little disruption to the everyday school life during the build. This is very exciting for us at Westover Green.

The EAL team now have a permanent base specifically set up to allow 1 to 1 support to children for whom English is an additional language.

Some of you may have noticed that we now have an all-weather jungle gym on the KS2 playground, which was kindly donated by Somerset County Council.

Communication

Good communication is vital to our school and we have tried to make it as easy as possible to stay in touch:

In person: Please feel free to approach your child's class teacher at the start or end of the school day. If you would like a bit more time to discuss something in particular you may like to book some time with your teacher to suit you both. If you would like to meet with our Head of School, Mr Rosslyn, you can pop into the school office and make an appointment. We are always keen to hear your views about how we can continue to improve Westover Green.

Email: This is a great way for you to contact the school office, your teacher or the head teacher. The office staff will always forward your emails confidentially to the intended recipient. office@westovergreenschool.org.uk

By phone: Our school office number is 01278 422943 and one of the office staff will always be available to answer your query, pass on a message or arrange a good time for your teacher to call you back.

Text: Tell us your mobile number and we'll keep you informed of all urgent or important messages by text.

Website: We've got a great website that is kept right up to date. Please visit it regularly to see the latest pictures of school trips, term dates, what the class topics are that term.

Post: Our address: Westover Green Community School, Westover Green, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA6 7HB

Message from Chair

We are very fortunate to have such a fantastic staff team at Westover Green and I would like to thank them for **all** their hard work and long hours they dedicate to making Westover Green Community School the special place it is. Thank you also to all the staff for their commitment, ready smiles and their ability to adapt and succeed. All of the 'above and beyond' moments you put in do not go unnoticed, so thank you again you are all appreciated individually.

Westover is lucky to have well-behaved, curious and creative pupils who embrace learning and the governors are striving to ensure that they have the best educational experience possible.

I'd also like to thank the parents who continue to show outstanding support to the school. This is vital to the success of Westover Green. We were particularly proud of the amount of parents and carers who attended the most recent parents' evening and supported the recent amazing show at the Mcmillian Theatre.

Finally, a huge thank you to the governors who give up their spare time with such enthusiasm and good spirit!

Kate Gallagher