



Widmer End Community Combined School and Pre-School

GOVERNOR NEWSLETTER – WINTER 2022

Please read on for a summary of what governors have been up to this term

MONITORING THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION

One of the key functions of the governing board is to hold the head teacher and senior leaders to account for the educational performance of the school. We were very pleased to welcome Miss Addison, the Phonics lead, to our meeting in November to hear about how the children are taught and supported to develop this fundamental skill. We asked Miss Addison a range of questions to help us understand how the teaching of Phonics progresses through the school and heard about recent changes to the timetable to improve the efficacy of lessons. We will be reviewing data throughout the year to monitor the impact of these actions.



SCHOOL TOUR AND FINANCE MATTERS

Governors were delighted to be able to have a full tour of the school following our first meeting of the academic year in September, when we were shown round in groups by Mrs Hillier and Mrs Marshall. This enabled us to see the school in action for the first time since March 2020 and talk to some of the children as well as staff.

We have also been scrutinising the school budget in light of the sharp rise in energy costs and other essential expenditure which has been hitting everyone this year. Thanks to the hard work of Mrs Hillier and Miss Bailey, our Bursar, we are cautiously optimistic that the school is well-placed to weather the storm. We will continue to monitor robustly.

SAFEGUARDING

At the start of each academic year, governors must read government guidance about procedures for protecting children in schools. Our safeguarding governor, Helen Carmody, also visits the school every term to review safeguarding procedures. Parents may have noticed the enhancements to signing-in processes and information provided for visitors, as well as improvements to the security of the building, all of which have been recorded in Helen's reports.



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GOVERNOR RECRUITMENT



We are delighted to welcome our new parent governor, Dan Allen (*pictured left*). Dan is father of twins Austin and Ivy in Reception, and Primrose who will join Pre-School next September. We thank him for volunteering for this important role and look forward to working with him during his four-year term of office.

We are also very pleased that Leizl van der Merwe has been re-elected as staff governor. Leizl has made a valuable contribution to the board, bringing a staff perspective and the benefit of her many years' service at the school.

GETTING INTO THE FESTIVE SPIRIT!

Governors got first-hand experience of the vital work that the PTA carries out for the school by manning the Refreshments stall at the recent Christmas Fair. We were kept busy throughout the event, serving sausages, mince pies, cups of tea and coffee and even the odd glass of mulled wine! It was fantastic to see the children enjoying themselves and so many families and friends of the school supporting and joining in the fun. Our thanks go to the PTA for raising much needed funds for the school through the Christmas Fair and all their other events.



CURRENT GOVERNING BODY MEMBERS

As of December 2022, the Governing Body consists of:

Laura Air, Chair (Parent)

Deborah Garvey Co-Vice Chair (Co-opted)

Stella Kalamaj, Co-Vice Chair (Co-opted)

Dan Allen (Parent)

Helen Carmody (Co-opted)

Laura Harvey (Parent)

Gemma Hillier (Headteacher)

Liezl van der Merwe (Staff)

Janet Mills (Co-opted)

Martin Skitt (Parent)

Karen Storrie (Local Authority)

Meetings are also attended by our Clerk, Paul Treadwell, and the Deputy Head, Vicki Marshall.

For further information about our governors, please visit the website: [The Governing Body | Widmer End School](https://www.widmerend.bucks.sch.uk/governors). If you have any questions or comments about our role, please email the Chair at chairofgovernors@widmerend.bucks.sch.uk



**WISHING YOU A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.
WE LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING MORE PARENTS IN 2023.**

