



Chair of Governors End of Year Report – July 2017

As we approach the end of another school year I once again have the opportunity to reflect on our school achievements over the last 12 months, think about our successes and reflect on what we can do even better moving forward. I also have the opportunity to thank those who are leaving or have left us over the last year and give a welcome to those who have joined our school Community in the last 12 months.

Finally I can report on the progress of the building work on site as our new classroom takes shape and we prepare to become an all through primary school.

So How Are We Doing?

You may recall that the only area that OFSTED advised us to improve on was Phonics:

“Improvements in the teaching of phonics and writing impact rapidly on pupils writing achievement during Reception year and Keys Stage1, particularly for boys and the most-able pupils.”

This was an area that our Leadership Team had already identified to drive improvement and plans and actions were already in place at the time of our inspection. The results of these actions are outstanding. In Year 1 - 96% of the class is at the expected level for the year. It is worth noting that the national level is 81.4% and 79.5% for West Sussex respectively. It gets better for Year 2 with 100% of the class meeting the expected standard. The current West Sussex Phonics achievement for Year 2 is 63%. To achieve 100% - 37% higher than the County Average is a fantastic achievement.

We very closely monitor the achievement of all children in reading, writing and mathematics. Once again we have shown an incredible improvement with 70% of Key Stage 1 students shown as working at the expected standard in all 3 areas. This is 16% higher than the West Sussex average of 55.9% and shows the hard work our staff and students have put in over the last 12 months.

83% of our youngest children are achieving a good level of development in all key areas of the early years curriculum. Once again we smash both the West Sussex and National trend where 70.7% achieved the standard.

At our recent Governors meeting Julian fed-back that every single speaker at a recent School Leadership Conference that he and Helen Drummond had attended used the word ‘Collaboration’ when talking about essential qualities for school leadership and school improvement. For West Chiltington that means building on the amazing work already in place

with families. Last year I shared some research which showed how during their Primary phase a child is influenced. Whilst 50% is Genetic, 30% of a child's influence is from things they see and do at home with school accounting for 20%. When we put those factors together, we have a winning formula. This year more than a dozen parents have been giving time regularly to support children in spelling. Their progress has been outstanding.

Wishing them a very warm welcome!

This year has seen us welcome many new faces to the West Chiltonington Family (in no particular order of importance):

Alfie and Basil:

After much speculation and talk our school goats 'Alfie' and 'Basil' finally joined us in April. They have been a wonderful addition to the WC family and every single student and staff member adores them! Whenever I visit other schools as part of my work as a Governor they are asked about and so are becoming quite well-known local celebrities!

Hester Gill and Liz Johnson – Teaching Assistants:

A huge welcome to both Liz and Hester. We hope you have settled in well to life at West Chiltonington.

Helen Smith and Mandy Hirsch – New Governors:

A huge welcome to both Helen and Mandy onto our Board of Governors. Many of you will remember Helen who has previously worked with us and has a specialist background in early year's education. Mandy is both a parent and a previous student so has a great knowledge of our school. Welcome to you both.

Tina Donovan – Joining our Office Team:

Tina recently joined us within the office and will be working closely with Diane and Valarie in. Welcome to the team.

Jill Dinsdale – Joining us in September:

Jill joins West Chiltonington in September as our new Class Teacher. Jill and her family have recently returned to the UK from Australia.

Good Luck and Farewell:

Sarah Lowe:

Our office staff are usually the first faces you see when walking into the school and are a vital link between parents and staff. At the end of the school year Sarah is leaving West Chiltonington and I would like to thank her on behalf of the Governing Body and the school for all her hard work. We wish Sarah all the best for the future.

Age of Transfer & Our New Classroom:

As you are aware from September we finally welcome Year 6 – 'Turquoise Class' into the school. The benefits and importance of changing the age of transfer have been well documented during the consultation period leading up to the decision but primarily Key Stage 2 will no longer be split across schools, providing more consistency of teaching and improved accountability for Student outcomes.

We have been working very closely with our 'Stars Primary School' colleagues to ensure the change is seamless and the best it can be.

Our new classroom build has gone very well and we are looking forward to being formally handed the space the week after term finishes well in time for the start of the new school year in September. I know the children are as excited as the staff to get into their new class room!

Changes to Our Board of Governors:

After many years of valued service Ruth Simmonds is stepping down as a Governor. The projects she has lead on over the years are too many to mention individually but her work as one of our Governors has been instrumental in driving improvement and making our school the special place it is today. On behalf of all of the school community I would like to thank her for the amazing work and dedication she has shown over the years

Due to a change of job role and increased international work commitments after 6 years I have made the decision to stand down as a Governor at the end of term. This has been a difficult decision but the right one. It has been a huge privilege to serve both as a Governor and Chair and I know I will always enjoy returning and be made welcome.

At its meeting last week the Board voted Julian Hoad and Julia Handley as joint Chairs. I have no doubt they will be brilliant and do a fantastic job taking our school to the next level.

Closing Thoughts!

I can remember on leaving school being asked by my teacher “What do you want from Life?” We all recognise that our lives are full of questions of the latter kind, not just about what we want from Waitrose (or most recently in our house Lidl!), but questions of a practical, immediate nature, many of which are communicated and responded to electronically and at pace. Yet it is the former question that is more important and that is much harder to answer, but I hope that it is a question that pupils begin to think about while they are at West Chiltington.

For us all, however, the question should not really be, ‘what do we want from life’, but ‘what do we want to give to life?’ On this note, I would like to thank the many volunteers who give freely of their time to support the School. I spoke earlier about the importance of collaboration in driving school improvement which Julian stated to the Board. Whether it is being a member of FOSA, reading in school, being a governor, or helping out in any other way it’s this collaboration and working together which makes our school the special place it is. Thank-you.

Many thanks for all your support over the last 6 years. I wish you all a relaxing and enjoyable summer.

Kind Regards,

Tim Rose.