

Governors' Newsletter

Autumn Term 2022



Happiness at the heart of learning

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the first edition of the Governors' newsletter for 2022-23. We particularly welcome all the new children and families who have joined our junior school community in Year 3, those who have joined other year groups and new staff members too.



Once again, this has been a very busy term. As governors, we have been delighted to return to some face-to-face meetings in the school after nearly two years of virtual meetings due to Covid. We started the term with a training session in school at the end of September, held jointly with the Infant School, which focused on preparation for Ofsted as the school is due for inspection from Spring 2023 onwards. For governors who joined over the past two years, this was a great opportunity to meet and get to know other members of the board. We also held our first full governing board meeting in school at the beginning of October. One of our governors reflects on this in the article below. In this newsletter, we hope to share aspects of school that we are very proud of and some of the ways in which we as governors contribute to the school.

Angela Doherty, Co-opted Governor, Chair of Governors

Glad to be back in school! I was so happy to attend a training day on the 30 September 2022. It felt so good to be physically back in the building. The reception team are always so welcoming and efficient. Once again, I was struck by the very calm atmosphere and the behaviour of the pupils on the corridors. A number of the pupils said, 'Hello'. The training was very good but it was the time I spent talking to other Governors after lunch that was the most meaningful. Zoom meetings are very useful but it is the bouncing of ideas when you work collaboratively that always produces the best results. We had a Governors' meeting on the 29 November and once again I was so very impressed with the data produced by the staff. I know this takes a great deal of time and effort and I would like to thank all the staff for their dedication and hard work this term.



Mary Clancy, Co-opted Governor, Chair of the Pupils' Committee

Welcome to new governors

We are pleased to welcome new governors **Manish Lath** and **Jennifer Bull** who join us as **Co-opted Governors**. Manish has extensive experience in the financial services industry specialising in finance, business management, strategy and restructuring; Jennifer leads on Research & Statistics in a neighbouring local authority. We would like to thank James Cantwell and Hitakshi Wadhwa who left due to work and relocation changes, for their contributions to the board.

We were sorry not to receive any applications for the **parent governor** roles, but are pleased to let you know that **Kieran Bassan** will continue in the role and **Kelly Barter** will move from a Co-opted Governor to the role of parent governor. Kieran and Kelly are both parents of pupils in Year 6.

If you would like to find out more about becoming a governor, please contact Mrs Moloi or email governors@whitehalljunior.org

Vision, values and strategic goals

Every year we reflect on our vision, values and strategic goals and as a group agreed that they are all still very relevant for the school. Below are examples of work in the school that reflect these commitments.

Our vision:

'Happiness at the heart of learning'
In our welcoming and inclusive school, we strive to be the best in everything we do.

Our values: **Bravery, Respect, Integrity, Determination, Generosity, Excellence**

Our strategic goals:

To improve achievement across the curriculum
To ensure the safety and well-being of all our school community
To use our resources effectively to meet our goals

Our welcoming and inclusive school

As part of school's work on **equality and diversity** the wonderful **'We Are One'** displays enable all pupils to share and celebrate their cultural backgrounds. The project has highlighted the diverse range of ethnicities, religions and spoken languages within Whitehall Junior.

In the recent pupil surveys, around **95% of pupils** agreed with the statement:

'My school encourages me to respect people from other backgrounds and to treat everyone equally'

In the parent survey, **96% of parents** said they would recommend the school to another parent.

As part of our role as governors, we will follow up on the responses to all of the questions in the pupil, parent and staff surveys that took place this term.



Improving achievement across the curriculum

SATS results 2022

In the Summer Term 2022, Year 6 pupils sat National Curriculum tests (SATs) for the first time since 2019. We were delighted to announce that our pupils achieved **above the national average** in all areas (reading, writing, maths, grammar, punctuation and spelling (GPS), reading, writing, maths combined) apart from writing at greater depth and **above the Hillingdon and London average** for reading, maths and GPS at age expected and higher levels.

More details can be found at: [Pupil Progress and Attainment | Whitehall Junior School](#)

Congratulations to all of the pupils who we now hope are doing well in their high schools. We would also like to thank all of the staff who worked so hard with the pupils to prepare them for the tests both in class and through extra catch-up tuition.

As governors, we are really pleased with the huge improvement in reading results which in part reflects the investment we have supported in the Reading Plus programme and new reading scheme.



So close!

The Year 6 football team were invited to compete in a football tournament this term. It was held on a cold Saturday morning and despite this, the turnout from the Whitehall parents was very impressive; I think we had the biggest number of supporters. The boys played extremely well and made it out of the group stages.

The quarter final was a very close game but we came out victorious, then it was onto the semi-final. The boys battled really hard and the game was a draw so it came down to penalties. Sadly, they were knocked out at this point.

Really proud of them as they went further than we thought they would. Thank you to Mr Jones & Mrs Garnie for giving up their Saturday morning so that the boys could compete and gain some valuable experience of playing in a knockout tournament and learning about team work.

Kelly Barter, Parent Governor & PE and Sports Premium link

Ensuring the safety and well-being of all our school community

Keeping children safe is the key priority for all schools and governors. Every year the government updates the document [Keeping children safe in education - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/106421/Keeping-children-safe-in-education-2022.pdf) (KCSIE) All staff and governors in school must receive training and are expected to be aware of the changes.

At the end of November, we completed a safeguarding visit to go through the new Hillingdon Safeguarding audit with Mrs Moloi who is also the Designated Safeguarding Lead and Mrs Huse, the Deputy Designated Safeguarding lead. The document covers all the areas of Keeping Children Safe in Education. We discussed the approaches taken in the school and identified any areas to be followed up. In the spring term we will complete another visit where we will talk to staff and pupils about the school's approach to keeping safe.

Angela Doherty and Sally Davies, Safeguarding Link Governors

Christmas at Whitehall Junior School!



The Governing Board was pleased to support the offer of a **free Christmas lunch** for all staff and pupils as the school. The kitchen staff from 'The Pantry' provided a traditional Christmas lunch with Yule log and homemade mince pie desserts that was clearly being thoroughly enjoyed when I visited last Friday.



The **Christmas Market** held jointly with the Infant School was also a great success. The tasty treats on offer, from popcorn to burgers to decorated biscuits, to scones with jam and cream, were hugely popular. The choir sang a fantastic medley of traditional carols and Christmas songs and there was a constant queue at the tombola.



We were sorry to hear that the **Year 4 Whitehall Winter Wonderland Production** had to be postponed due to staff and pupil illness but look forward to seeing the show in the New Year.

Wishing you and your families a safe and happy Christmas holiday and best wishes for 2023.

