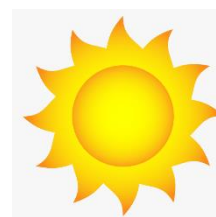


Governors' Newsletter

Summer Term 2023



Happiness at the heart of learning

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of another extremely busy and productive academic year, I would like to thank all members of the Whitehall Junior School community for their contributions as pupils, parents, staff, governors and members of the wider community to the success of the school. We are all aware of what a great school Whitehall Junior School is and so were very pleased to have that view validated by Ofsted when they visited us just after the summer half term. The new Ofsted framework is very detailed and challenging, but as a school we felt confident that all areas were being addressed to a high standard. The final report provides a great summary of the strengths of the school, although with limited words allowed, many areas of excellent practice don't manage to get a mention. As governors, we would like to acknowledge all of the school's brilliant work, whether included in the report or not. You can read below how the governors contributed to the inspection and examples other ways in which we have been involved with the school this term.



Angela Doherty, Chair of Governors

Hello and goodbye to members of the Governing Board



On behalf of the Governing Board, I would like to say a huge thank you to Mary Clancy, who has completed her four-year term of office and will be leaving us this summer. Mary has been the Chair of the Pupils' Committee and link governor for Special Educational Needs, early reading and geography. Mary's extensive experience as a teacher and Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator has been highly valued by the board and the school. We wish her well for the future.

We also thank Miss Tanya Costa who has completed her term of office as staff governor. Miss Costa's role in leading Y6, pupil premium, sports premium and PE has kept the board very well informed and we are pleased that this will continue through her role as Assistant Headteacher in the school.

We are delighted to welcome to Katya Henson and Ashish Seksaria as new members of the board for next year. You will hear more from them in the Autumn newsletter. A new staff governor will also be elected in the new term.

Have you considered becoming a school governor?

We currently have two vacancies on the Governing Board. We would particularly like more parents to join us. Please read the reflections of below from Mary who is leaving us and Manish who joined us this year on their time as governors. It is a great way to contribute in a wider sense to your school community. Please email governors@whitehalljunior.org or speak to Mrs Moloi or any of the governors to find out more. Also see: [School Governors | Whitehall Junior School](#)

Reflections on being a governor at Whitehall Junior School

When I retired in 2018, after 36 years of teaching, I was determined to cut my ties with education. However, in 2019, I received an invitation to a meeting for prospective school governors. At the end of the meeting, I spoke to the Chair of Governors for Whitehall Junior School and I commenced my journey as a school governor in July 2019.



At that time, none of us was aware of the Covid virus and the impact it would have on our lives. I have really enjoyed every visit to the school, so my one regret is that because of Covid we could not spend as much time in the school community.

My lasting memories will be the sense of peace and the enthusiasm and determination of all staff, the pupils, who always seemed so engaged and happy and the Headteacher's absolute belief that all will be well.

Mary Clancy, Chair of Pupils' Committee and Special Educational Needs link governor



Having worked in a global corporate environment for 20 years, I had some anxiety when I decided to join Whitehall Junior School as a governor. But I have always been pleasantly surprised whenever I meet the school community at the Governing Board meeting or any school event. The school maintains a very high standard when it comes to the safety and overall development of pupils, governance, discipline in matters of finance, academic content and the welfare of the staff. And the current Ofsted rating is a testament to these values. I must say that I chose to be a governor with the idea of giving back to the community, but I am getting more value out of it in terms of inspiration, satisfaction and joy.

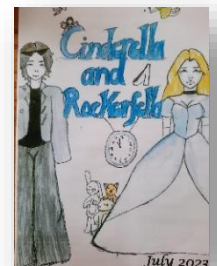
Manish Lath, Resources' Committee

Well done, Year 6!

The pupils in Y6 were in Y3 when we had the first Covid lockdown in March 2020 and then in Y4 for the second period out of school. The teachers and teaching assistants have worked very hard to make up for the lost learning with many pupils benefitting from extra tuition before or after school or at lunch time. As governors, we are very proud of their achievements and wish them all well in their new secondary schools in September.

Year 6 Leavers Production Cinderella & Rokerfella

What an amazing show the Year 6's put in for their production Cinderella & Rokerfella!! So proud of them all; it was absolutely brilliant! The songs were all sung so well with clear loud voices! Well done to all the staff involved in putting this production together!! Great performances, amazing costumes, props, lighting, music and backstage support made it a memorable event for everyone.



Cardfields: Y6 also had a very successful week at Cardfields just after the SATS tests. They enjoyed trips to Stubbers Adventure Centre, Colchester Zoo and swimming. The children were praised by the staff at the centre as one of the best groups they have ever had. **Kelly Barter, parent governor, Pupils' Committee**



Governing Board Members 2022- 23

Kelly Barter (parent), Kieran Bassan (parent), Jennifer Bull (LA), Mary Clancy (co-opted), Tanya Costa (staff), Sally Davies (co-opted), Angela Doherty, Chair(co-opted), Manish Lath (co-opted), Anneline Moloi (Headteacher)



Inspectors call!

On Monday 5 June 2023, Mrs Mloi received the call from Ofsted to say that the school would be inspected on Tuesday 6th and

Wednesday 7th June. The inspection involves a wide range of activities including visiting classrooms, looking at documents and speaking to a number of different people including governors. As a Governing Board, we have been working closely with the Mrs Mloi and the other senior leaders to prepare for Ofsted, so we felt confident that we would be able to provide the evidence required by the inspectors.

| Inspection of Whitehall Junior School | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Cowley Road, Unbridge UB8 2LX | |
| Inspection dates: | 6 and 7 June 2023 |
| Overall effectiveness | Good |
| The quality of education | Good |
| Behaviour and attitudes | Good |
| Personal development | Good |
| Leadership and management | Good |
| Previous inspection grade | Good |

On the second day, three governors, Kieran, Sally and I met with the lead inspector. The areas we that were asked about were: **Safeguarding, the quality of education, the use of financial resources and equalities**. We were able to give several examples for each area about how we worked with the school including our committees, regular visits and the training that we had received that has helped us improve how we work.

We were very pleased to see the following statements included in the final report along with the judgement of **good** for all aspects of the school's work:

Leaders, including those responsible for governance, have created an ambitious culture and are committed to continuous improvement. They have a detailed and accurate understanding of the school's strengths and the areas they want to improve further.

In relation to safeguarding: *'Staff, including governors, understand their responsibilities because they have been well trained.'* **Ofsted June 2023**

Angela Doherty, Chair of Governors, Safeguarding Link Governor

Below are Sally and Kieran's reflections on the inspection:

When the Ofsted inspection of WJS was announced, I felt suddenly like I was facing an exam; an exam which I had done a lot of work for over the past couple of years but where the subject is so wide that it felt a bit overwhelming.

Knowing how well the school is led and managed, and how it is held to account in such a collaborative way by the governors, I knew how much the school deserved a great rating for the amazing work it does. Going that extra mile to give each child the best chance – embracing the wide range of considerable challenges they often face. I didn't want to be the one to let the school down!

When the day came for our brief but probing interview with the lead inspector, I was able to make some useful contributions to add to those of the other governors present. A big relief! And I shouldn't have worried. The school did a great job!

Sally Davies (Co-opted governor, Resources' Committee, Safeguarding Link Governor)

I am particularly proud of the feedback received on the resources management. Overall, we are in a good place to manage the future budget challenges and continue to plan to ensure that the school has the best facilities and educational tools going forward. This is great testament to the hard work of the headteacher and leadership team and Ms Tudorescu and the back-office and site teams.

Kieran Bassan (Parent governor, Chair of Resources' Committee)

Active Whitehall!

Governors at Whitehall Junior School have always placed a high value on health and fitness and competitive sport and so it was no surprise to us that Ofsted commented very positively on PE when they looked at the subject in depth during the inspection:

'The curriculum is cumulatively sequenced, with time made to revisit and recap previous learning. This helps pupils to understand and learn more complex ideas over time. For example, in physical education (PE) pupils develop and practise their running, jumping and throwing skills in athletics. This knowledge helps them to compete successfully in competitive games later on.' **Ofsted June 2023**

We receive a regular report each term on how the school is spending the PE and Sports premium grant. The full report can be seen on our website. [School Sport and Funding | Whitehall Junior School](#) The school also applies each year for the School Games mark and we are proud to have received the gold award again. All the information provided by Miss Costa can be found on the School Games website link below.



[Your School Games - What a successful 2022-23](#)

Well done, Mill House!

There was a fantastic turn out from family and friends to Sports Day to support and cheer the children on, many of whom took part in the adults' races. The weather was kind and the field was filled at lunchtime



with everyone enjoying their picnic with their friends. Well done to Mill House as the overall winners!
Kelly Barter – Parent governor



Team Sport Success

I would like to send my congratulations to the netball and tag rugby teams. The netball team showed great improvements over the year and the tag rugby team provided one of the highlights of the sporting year by winning the inter-school tournament. A big thank you as always to Miss Costa and Mr Jones for their ongoing dedication to organising, coaching and refereeing the games. **Kieran Bassan - Parent governor**



Summer Fair

The Summer Fair is always a great reflection of the teamwork and creativity at the school and in the case of Miss Costa and Mr Mitchell and others who took their place in the stocks, a willingness to have a go at anything!

Led by head chef, Mrs Moloj, on the burger stall, there was a wonderful variety of food on offer from healthy fruit snacks to millionaire shortbread and chocolate fountains and a whole range of fun games and challenges for all the family.



Angela Doherty, Chair of governors



Wishing you and your families a safe and a wonderful summer holiday!