

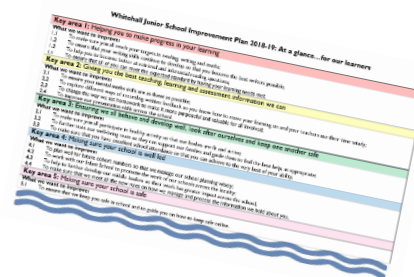
Governors' Newsletter

2018-19

No 3: Summer 2019



Happiness at the heart of learning



Dear Parents and carers,

Welcome to our summer term newsletter, the final one to end what has been another extremely busy and successful year for the school. As I complete my second year as Chair of Governors at the school, I feel immensely proud of the excellent education and wide range of experiences provided for all of the pupils. In this edition of the newsletter, I will outline some of the main areas of work that we have focused on as governors this year. Members of the board will also share some of their reflections on their work and visits to events at the school. Our **School Improvement Plan** which you can find on the school website: <http://www.whitehalljunior.org/school-improvement-plan/> outlines the school's priorities for the year. For each area we receive reports, ask questions and visit the school to see the areas in action.

1. Ensuring all pupils make progress in their learning

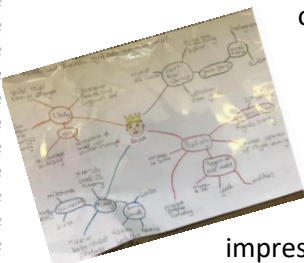
We have discussed progress in reading, writing, spelling, punctuation and grammar and maths for all year groups and hear about the strategies the school is putting in place to help pupils reach the expected standards for their age. We are really pleased about the improvement in the Year 6 writing results this year.

2. Teaching and learning and assessing pupils' work

The governors have supported the investment in iPads and an



online times tables practice programme as part of the school's preparation for the new multiplication tables check being introduced for Year 4 pupils by the government in 2019-20. You can read more about this and listen to a short video on this link: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/multiplication-tables-check-development-process>



We have been delighted to see the wide range of impressive homework projects as a result of the new approach to homework. The school reported very positive feedback from parents and pupils about the new homework tasks.



3. Keeping healthy, supporting pupils to come to school every day

We receive regular reports on how the school is using its Sports Premium money to provide a wide range of fitness activities for pupils. One of our governors comes into school to hear about the work of the well-being team with pupils and families.

4. School leadership

This year we have met with the Infant School and members of the Local Authority to discuss the numbers of pupils in the school so that we can plan the budget and staffing of the school effectively.

5. Keeping everyone safe

As governors, one of the most important things that we do is to ensure that all pupils are safe. We have a report at every meeting on different aspects of safeguarding and we have supported the school's request to purchase a secure online system for safeguarding records. Two governors are linked to the safeguarding and visit the school each term to focus on different aspects of the school's work in this area.

Our Committees

Pupils Committee

Throughout the year, we have worked together to ensure that our school gives all children access to a wide range of opportunities to provide them with a broad and rich curriculum. Being such an inclusive school has enabled children to make the academic progress that they deserve and of course this would not be possible without such great dedication and determination from the wonderful staff and the support of all parents.

Rayna Ramtohol-Butler, Chair of the Pupils' Committee

Our vision
'Our school is a welcoming and inclusive community providing all children with high quality learning in a respectful and safe environment. Through inspirational teaching and a positive, encouraging atmosphere, we enable children to aspire and embrace lifelong learning in an ever-changing world.'

Resources' Committee

This has been my first year in the role as Chair of the Resources' Committee and I have enjoyed working with the team and getting to understand more about the way school finance works.

This year, the school has continued to invest in educational resources, buildings and IT infrastructure. We continue to plan for future improvements whilst ensuring we continue to provide the high-quality education and opportunities for all our children and staff as we currently do.



Kieran Bassan, Chair of the Resources' Committee

Governor visits to school this term

Year 6 Transition Lunch: Thursday 20th June 2019



Once again, it was my pleasure to join representatives from the many schools that our Year 6 will be moving to next year at the Whitehall Transition Lunch. On arrival, I was greeted at reception by my friendly host who wasted no time in whisking me through to the wonderfully decorated studio. Much to my appreciation this year, there was a Mexican theme with music, décor and food to match. Head Chef, Mrs Moloi, had a tough act to follow based on the delicious curry from last year but ably assisted by her team of chefs I think they may have surpassed themselves. The front of house team beautifully looked after their customers and the attention to detail that went into hand produced menus, placemats and table decorations didn't go unnoticed. Having had the opportunity to speak with teachers from other schools, all expressed what a wonderful event this is and that the professionalism, maturity and eagerness to impress was clearly evident in all of the children. This is one of my favourite events in the Whitehall calendar, not only because I get to indulge in another of Mrs Moloi's delicious recipes but because it epitomises what the school is about by providing the best environment so that the children are ready to embrace lifelong learning in an ever-changing world.



Matthew Ralph, Vice Chair of Governors

School Fair, Friday 28th June 2019

What an amazing day it was, lovely weather, great turn out, even a few past students attended. There were a variety of activities for the children and stalls with various things to purchase, from toys to household products.

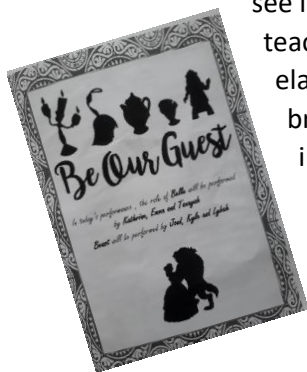
The go-kart deemed to be the most popular activity and the high ropes also attracted a crowd. My grandson won a coconut - Bon Appetite, fresh coconut milk for my rice and peas!!!! Although the Fair was mainly for the children, there was the green-fingers stall and I got there first to purchase some plants. Well done, to all the children that participated in helping with the stalls!! Great organisational skills learnt, also to be responsible and have a business-like mind.



Marcia Beput, Co-opted Governor

Year 6 production, Wednesday 10th July 2019

What a delight to see the Year 6 Leaver's production of *Be Our Guest*... their take on Beauty and the Beast. In Mrs Moloï's own words, 'this is better than anything you would see in the West End'... And she wasn't wrong! The Year 6s and the teachers pulled this together in 8 days; a performance consisting of elaborately coordinated dance routines, pitch perfect singing that brought a tear to the eye and superb acting from every single student. Highlights included the comical horse, solo singing from our 3 Belles and the flash mob dance at the end which clearly demonstrated the children were having the time of their lives.



Sports Day, Friday 5th July 2019

The weather was definitely on side for **Sports Day**. The morning was all about the year 5 & 6 children doing their round robin events including Welly Throwing, Jumping and an Obstacle Course, which were all then repeated in the afternoon for the Year 3 and 4 children. This really is a fun event that families all come to watch and it was a real treat to join the children for lunch and have a picnic in the sunshine.

But not before all the children in the school took part in a running race competing to earn those important house points. The Mums' and Dads' race definitely brought out the athletes amongst us and some of the biggest cheers from the children. And let's not forget, **Frays House** were the worthy winners this year!



Anu Short, Parent Governor

A view from a new governor

My first visit to Whitehall Junior School

As a secondary teacher, my only experience of primary schools was my annual visit, to meet the New Year 7 intake. It was therefore a real insight to visit the school during 'Whitehall Week'. My first impression was the outstanding students' work on display, every available space was filled with eye catching information, pictures and art work. My second impression was how well maintained the building was. It was also very interesting to read about the history of the school and reflect on the baton of support that has been passed down through the generations.

During my tour of the school, I visited every year group. In each class I was met by happy and engaged pupils. The ratio of staff to students was reassuring, as there were at least two adults in every classroom. Another surprise was the pupils' confidence, they were very happy to answer all my questions; indeed, all the pupils were eager for me to hear their views and share with me the activity they were engaged in.

The highlight of my visit was watching the year 6 pupils take part in a fencing lesson. Many of the students had only been practising for a short period of time, but they were already adept at many of the skills. I left Whitehall school, confident that the pupils were not only happy in their school environment, but were on a journey with their teachers to achieve their personal best.

Mary Clancy, Co-opted Governor

Changes to the governing board for 2019-20

With thanks to

Dr Muhammad Kamal, a parent governor who is leaving us due to work commitments. We would like to thank him for his contributions since joining in 2017.

Mrs Heather Brooks, who has served for eight years as a staff governor. Mrs Brooks has brought a wealth of experience to the board, particularly from her role as Deputy Designated Safeguarding lead in the school and extensive work with pupils and parents.

We also thank Beccy Stubbs, our clerk for her work this year. Beccy left at the beginning of term to take up a full-time position nearer to home.

And we are very pleased to welcome.....

New co-opted governors, Mary Clancy, a retired teacher and James Cantwell, a student at Brunel University.

New staff governor, Tanya Costa who will join us in September and Rebecca Wilson, our new clerk to the governing board who joined us this term.

And continuing for another term of office....

Thank you to Peter James who has agreed to continue as the LA governor for another term of office and I will also continue for another four years as a co-opted governor.

If you feel that you would like to find out more about being a school governor, please speak to Mrs Moloi or email: governors@whitehalljunior.org and we will contact you.

Have a wonderful summer break.

Angela Doherty, Chair of Governors