

Governors' Newsletter

Spring Term 2026



Happiness at the heart of learning



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the Spring Term edition of the Governors' newsletter. This term, as well as our usual business, Governors have been involved in one of the biggest potential changes to the school for many years. With the news that Mrs Brangan, Headteacher at Whitehall Infant School, is planning to retire at the end of the school year after twenty years of wonderful service, the Local Authority approached the Infant School and the Junior School to begin consultation on creating one primary school on the site, covering all year groups from Nursery to Year 6. In this newsletter, we cover some of the ways in which Governors have been involved in the process.

In addition, Governors have been visiting the school in their role as link Governor to an area of the school or to a curriculum subject. Some of their comments and findings are also shared below.

Angela Doherty, Chair of Governors – Co-opted Governor

Amalgamation consultation

The process of joining together two existing schools to create a single primary school is a technical process that must be followed by the Council and the schools. The process is designed to provide as much information as possible to all of the stakeholders including parents, staff, governors and the local community. Following several meetings and careful consideration of the information provided, the Governing Board at Whitehall Junior voted unanimously to support the beginning of the consultation process to extend the size of the school to include all the year groups currently in the Infant School, with Mrs Moloj, our Headteacher, leading the new school. The Governing Board of Whitehall Infant School also voted to support the process. The information gathered will be considered and a decision will be made by the Council Cabinet on Thursday 23 April 2026.



Angela Doherty, Chair of Governors – Co-opted Governor

Getting to know our schools - Joint Governor walk – 11 March 2026



Governors from the Infant and the Junior school met in the Infant school for a morning of joint walks around both schools. The Vice Chairs from both schools led the walks. It was a great opportunity to meet with the Governors from the other school and also to see children in lessons, from early years through to Y6. We were able to see a clear progression through and it gave us an opportunity to understand how important it is to work across the schools. It was great to see teachers in action throughout the different year groups and it was also a very useful opportunity for us all to see how well both schools, work.

Jane Guest, Vice-Chair of Governors – Co-opted Governor

A Walk on the Safe Side – Governor Health & Safety Visit



As part of my role as the school's Health & Safety Link Governor, I recently spent some time walking around the school site to see how things are looking from a safety and facilities perspective.

The good news is that Whitehall Junior School continues to be a very well-maintained and carefully monitored environment. I'm pleased to report that any concerns are quickly spotted, recorded and temporarily fixed until a permanent repair can be completed.

With the recent wet weather, the roof and guttering have been getting some attention, with regular monitoring to ensure everything stays watertight. Moss on the roof (which seems to enjoy the school almost as much as the children do) is also something that continues to be kept under review.



One of the most impressive developments since my last visit is the new CCTV system. The coverage and picture quality are excellent and provide an extra level of reassurance for both safety and safeguarding across the school site.

Perhaps the most encouraging thing from the visit was seeing how well the site team work together. Between Mrs Tudorescu, Mr Heath and the wider facilities support, there is a clear depth of knowledge and a strong system for identifying, recording and resolving issues quickly.

In summary: no dramatic hazards, no runaway roof tiles, and no carpets plotting a rebellion, just a well-run school site where safety and maintenance are taken seriously.

And as a governor, that's exactly what we like to see.

Matthew Ralph – Co-opted Governor, Health & Safety Link Governor

Subject visits

Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE)



I met with Miss Guernieri and Miss Sharma and they explained that PSHE education focuses on teaching life skills and helping children develop a deeper understanding of the world around them. It supports pupils to become more confident in facing challenges, making informed choices, and contributing actively to society. The curriculum also allows children to revisit, recognise, and celebrate our school values: bravery, respect, integrity, determination, generosity, and excellence. Staff have implemented structured lessons, thematic weeks, and opportunities for pupil voice, ensuring the subject is both engaging and relevant.

History

Miss Sandanadan explained that the history curriculum is carefully planned to develop pupils' knowledge of the past and the skills of a historian. Pupils build both substantive knowledge (facts, events, people) and disciplinary knowledge (enquiry, source analysis, and critical thinking). Lessons are engaging, with discussion, debate, and the use of human stories to help pupils connect with the content. The school has created a whole-school timeline to support chronological understanding and links between topics, and resources are thoughtfully organised to support teaching and learning.



Karen Rouse – Co-opted Governor

Keeping our children safe – Safeguarding visit January 2026



A crucial part of the governing body responsibilities is to ensure that the school has effective, whole-school, safeguarding arrangements in place which keep children safe and comply with the laws which are there to protect them, significantly the Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) statutory guidance.

At our meeting in January with the Designated Safeguarding Lead, Headteacher, Mrs Moloi, we were satisfied that the school continues to work strenuously and creatively to meet all the demands of keeping children safe, and had confirmation of a range of organisational administrative procedures which ensure things actually get done. The school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy for example had been updated with changes to KCSIE September 2025 and ratified by the governing body in October. Other policies and procedures updated and agreed according to the planned timeline, include Online safety policy; Staff code of conduct; Whistleblowing procedure.

Other areas that we looked at were developments in site CCTV, online filtering and monitoring software, ways to talk to children about online safety in a more 'child relatable way', cross-referencing the new PSHE scheme from Ealing with the online safety curriculum and adapting the teaching of safeguarding to make it more accessible for vulnerable pupils. These are all aspects the school is committed to working on and evolving indicating the whole school commitment to keeping children safe.

Sally Davies, Co-opted governor & Angela Doherty, Co-opted Governor – Safeguarding Governors

Subject visits



I recently completed SEND, Maths, Reading and Writing governor visits, these visits also included updates on EAL and Phonics. It was such a pleasure to meet with all the staff involved and the meetings gave the staff an opportunity to share their successes and challenges. It is evident how organised and passionate staff at Whitehall are about their subjects and the school. I would like to thank everyone for their hard work and commitment. During both the governor walks and subject visits it was a pleasure to see happy pupils in a lovely calm environment.

Jane Guest, Vice-Chair of Governors – Co-opted Governor

Science



I met with Mr Mitchell to discuss science. Children are particularly enjoying the cross-subject 'space' theme. They continue to love the practical aspects of the science lessons and have many 'wow' moments on discovering in real time, the magic of science all around them. Even simple experiments like seeing the effect of heat on chocolate – changing its 'state' from solid to liquid, can be key moments of learning and excitement. The inclusion of a wider list of international scientists and mathematicians etc who have been responsible for remarkable discoveries and achievements continues to interest and motivate children.



Sally Davies, Co-opted Governor

PE



I met with Miss Costa, Miss Grove and Mrs McCarthy to discuss the PE curriculum and wider sporting provision at the school. They all demonstrated a clear awareness of the government recommendation that children should undertake 60 minutes of physical activity per day, with at least 30 minutes taking place during the school day.

The school meets this expectation through structured PE lessons, daily opportunities for physical activity, and a range of after-school sports clubs. The Superstar Sports Ambassadors programme also contributes to promoting participation and engagement across the school.

It was encouraging to hear that pupil feedback has been actively sought through “Pupil Voice” surveys, with PE receiving a rating of 4.5 out of 5 stars from pupils. Feedback indicated that PE is popular across the school community and that pupils particularly value the opportunity to experience a wide range of sports and activities.



Opportunities available, extend beyond traditional sports for example the use of local facilities at Brunel University for climbing activities, and the integration of yoga sessions during Children’s Mental Health Week, demonstrating how PE provision can support both physical and mental wellbeing.

Matthew Ralph – Co-opted Governor

Music

As I was unable to meet Mrs Hampton, she kindly provided a very useful report on music teaching in the school. As a recommendation from the National Plan for Music Education, whole class ukulele teaching, began in the summer term in Y4 last year and culminated with a performance for parents which was well received. This has been repeated with two classes in Y4 this year and the other two classes will begin lessons this term. Performances took place for parents again and children enjoyed learning a new instrument.



Mrs Hampton and another member of staff currently run the school choir and 40 children took part in Voice in a Million at the OVO Arena at Wembley on 18 March 2026. This is always a wonderful, memorable occasion for the pupils. All children get the opportunity to sing during a 15-minute singing assembly each week. Mrs Hampton has also managed to secure tickets for Year 4 to attend a London Symphony Orchestra live concert in June which is sure to be an unforgettable event for them.

Angela Doherty, Co-opted Governor



Wishing you and your families a safe and happy Spring break!