



William Penn Governor Newsletter - Autumn 2017

New Governors

Autumn Term is a time for hellos, and first of all, hello to the children new to William Penn. At the Open Day in October, the number of visitors coming to see round the school was gratifying. The Governors looked in too, to see the children working, singing, and having games outside in a fine drizzle.

There is a change of three Governors this term, and children and parents will already have seen two of them because they are often in school: Mr. Jonathan Clarke, and Mr. Philip Bellas. Both of them have been teachers, and Mr. Clarke also brings experience as a detective, while Mr. Bellas ran a Design and Technology department. Su Johnston is a new Quaker Governor, a Primary School teacher a very long time ago, and happy to learn the modern approach to first school education, at William Penn.

More information about the new Governors can be had on:

http://www.williampenn.wsussex.sch.uk/website/governor_profiles

But the three Governors who have finished their time at William Penn have left their mark, and we are thankful to them for their work over the past years. Mrs. Kirstie Flood successfully led raising the funds for the new building, enabling it to become a reality. Mr. Jim Smith, as Chair of the Premises Committee, worked with Mr. Kear and the school caretaker to ensure that the premises remained safe over the building operations; and his hands-on approach meant that the new work was completed to a high standard. It was rather sad that the grand opening day was so disastrously wet, but that was a snag no one could fix. Mr. Colin Hope, so experienced in professional accountancy, has made sure that the school's budget and spending matched up, working with the school bursar and Mr. Kear in his role as Chair of the Finance Committee. There is a lot for us all to thank them for.

We have also said farewell to our Clerk to the Governors and thank Michelle Campbell for her time clerking for the governing body at William Penn. Our new Clerk to Governors should also be a familiar face. We are delighted to welcome Virginia Stephenson who also works as a teaching assistant at William Penn.

The Daily Mile

Mr. Ruff has this in hand, and will be letting parents, children and teachers know just how the activity will work. We look forward to the sight of children running the marked out distance (not a mile actually!) at play times or dinner time. This pleasant and enjoyable group exercise will be its own excuse; and everyone will be interested to see how the extra activity is reflected in the children's focus on their school work.

Surveys

The Governors annually survey the children, parents and teachers to get an understanding of their experience of the school, and this is a most valuable tool, used for everyone's benefit. Mutual relationships and practical progress are equally vital in the life of school, and the data for finding the best way forward is based on these surveys. Everyone that contributes their opinions make the survey that much more valuable, so please make sure you have helped in this way.

Governors' Activities

Governors meet as a body of course; but also in other committees. This year, Finance and Premises committees are combined, and now called Amenities committee. The Curriculum committee continues, and the Link Governors are currently encouraging Governors to continue taking the very useful courses run by West Sussex and other agencies. Part of the enjoyment of being a Governor is to find out how to be better-informed and more useful to the school, staff, children and parents.

If you would like to contact the Governing body direct, you are welcome to use our dedicated e-mail address: governors@williampenn.co.uk or go to the Governors section on the School website for more information.

With Friendly good wishes, Su Johnston (Quaker Foundation Governor)

