

William Penn Governors' Newsletter – Spring 2020

New Governors

Two new Governors were welcomed at our last meeting: Mike Blackman, whose children are in KS1, and who has much experience in finance; and Richard Hewitt, who attends the Blue Idol and has past experience as a school governor, as well as a background in training and HR. Both have a keen interest in the school and its well-being. We thank Jonathan Clarke, who is stepping down as a Governor at Easter, and whose familiar face at the school will be missed by all those he has helped so much: children, staff and governors.

Friends' Club

The Friends' Club, which provides much appreciated wraparound care, is proving to be very popular. It is very well attended, having between 10 and 20 children attending some sessions. Thank you for your feedback on our provision. Governors will continue to review this and so as to closely match the needs of the school community.

School Improvement Priorities

At the beginning of October, the Governing Body held its first meeting of the academic year and agreed the school's key priorities for 2019-20. Please find below a summary of each, together with an update on how work is progressing towards achieving these.

Priority 1: Develop a vision for the next 3 to 5 years.

At William Penn, we aim to continuously improve and make the experience of the school the very best it can be for pupils, parents and staff. Projecting forward a few years, we are considering what specific goals we want the school and its pupils to have achieved.

In order to do this, we are involving all members of the school community in developing the plan. Parents, staff, pupils and governors have been asked to share their views about what they think works really well at William Penn and how they think we can make the school even better.

This process is now complete and the responses are being collated. Our next steps will be to use this information to draft the school's vision and strategic plan. We look forward to sharing this with you towards the end of the Summer Term.

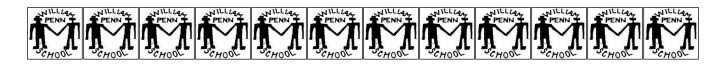
Priority 2: Ensure a broad and balanced curriculum is delivered.

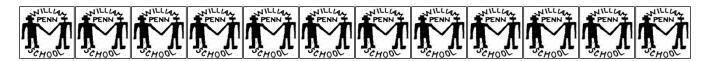
Staff and governors are committed to providing the best learning experiences for all children. Ofsted have set new expectations for schools which focus on what is taught in the curriculum.

"A well-constructed, well-taught curriculum will lead to good results because those results will be a reflection of what pupils will have learned." (Amanda Spielman, Head of Ofsted)

Governors are working with staff to ensure the school delivers justified, coherent learning experiences that are relevant, challenging and form part of a planned program of work. This is a process that, to do well, will take time.

Staff are currently reviewing schemes of work, keeping what works and improving others. Having a strong curriculum, with a wide range of subjects, together with a coherent and well sequenced progression of





knowledge and skills, is a challenging task for any school. This process is well underway; staff are working together to look at the range of subjects and how knowledge and progression is delivered within each.

Priority 3: Improve the quality of writing across the school.

Raising the level of attainment in writing is one of the key priorities being monitored by governors within the school. The objective is to improve the quality of writing across the school, as well as ensuring that the standard of presentation is high in all books. Teachers have high expectations of the quality and presentation of pupils' work so that pupils make consistently strong progress.

An initial monitoring visit in both KS1 and KS2 was carried out by governors in November. Further visits are planned for the spring and summer terms.

As usual, members of the governing body will attend parents' evening later this term and we look forward to meeting some of you then.

