











Governor Newsletter

Autumn Term, 2019

Little Waltham School Governing Body

				
Jon Tredwell Chair of Governors Foundation Governor	Kristy Rosam Vice-Chair of Governors Parent Governor	Elizabeth Maycock Headteacher Ex-Officio	Rev Sandra Sykes Incumbent Ex-Officio	Ruth Baker Staff Governor
				
Martin Gandy Foundation Governor	Joanne Young Foundation Governor	Dave Howatson Foundation Governor	Diane Regan Foundation Governor	Verity Turner Parent Governor

Welcome to our first newsletter of the 2019-20 academic year. It is an aim of Little Waltham School's Governing Body to have good communication between Governors, staff, parents and children and we hope that this newsletter supports part of this aim. Through our termly newsletters we aim to share with you who your Governors are and a snapshot of what we do.

We currently have 10 Governing Body members. Each academic year the Governing Body is required to elect a Chair and Vice-Chair of Governors. At our autumn term Full Governing Body meeting, Jon Tredwell was re-elected as Chair and Kristy Rosam was elected as Vice-Chair. This term we are also pleased to welcome one new Governor, Verity Turner, who is a parent with a son in Year 2. Here is a bit more information about our new parent Governor Verity...

I am Verity, mummy to two children who are six and three. Life is busy but family time is precious so we try to make the most of being together after a busy week, enjoying activities such as swimming, football and taking our dog for long walks. We enjoy being outdoors, exploring nature and taking trips to the seaside in the summer.

My eldest, Freddie, is currently enjoying year two and although I don't know where the time has gone – it seems impossible – my daughter, Poppy, will be starting reception next September. It seems like only five minutes ago I was completing an application for Freddie's place and now, here I am about to do it again for Poppy. Of course, at the time I knew very little about the school (we moved to Little Waltham at the same time Freddie started in reception) but, having visited many schools, and following the advice I give parents in my own work, I went with my 'gut' feeling, putting Little Waltham Primary as our first choice. It is such a nerve-racking time, waiting to find out where your child will go to school and spend their primary years – such an important decision; I felt the gravity of it immensely. Turns out I was right to trust my instinct. The school has not disappointed. We could not have asked for a better, more stable foundation to Freddie's primary education. He has made some wonderful, life-long friends and his teachers to date have been amazing, inspiring a genuine love of learning, encouraging challenge whilst also nurturing and supporting. It makes the application process second time around far easier. We know, without a doubt, where we would like Poppy to grow, make friends and learn.

As well as being mummy, I work four days a week leading the specialist provision for deaf children in a local mainstream junior school. I have worked within education for over seventeen years – first as a secondary English teacher and latterly as a qualified teacher of the deaf. I am hoping my professional and parental experience will enable me to fulfil the role of parent governor befittingly. My children are in the early stages of their educational journey so I am committed long term to the school and feel fortunate to be able to represent the parents of the school on the school's Governing Body. I am entirely committed to supporting the school in being the best it can and to achieve all it can for each of our children.

Verity Turner

To ensure effective governance and drive school improvement, it is essential that a Governing Body has a good blend of knowledge, skills, and experiences, along with a balanced and diverse set of views. At present we have 2 vacancies on the Governing Body for a Local Authority Governor and a Foundation Governor and so if you are interested in finding out more about becoming a school Governor, please let us know by contacting the school office or emailing krosam@littlewaltham.essex.sch.uk.

The Governing Body has 2 main committees - the Teaching, Learning and Achievement Committee and the Resources Committee – which meet on a termly basis and have delegated responsibilities. Some of the Resources Committee’s responsibilities include: ensuring that fire safety measures are sufficient; ensuring risk assessments are carried out for health and safety and security and considering any premises and maintenance issues which may arise. For example, earlier this term, following a successful application for grant funding, essential maintenance work was carried out on the school premises. The Diocesan approved a grant of around £40,000 for urgent building work to the school chimney breasts which were suffering from damp, as well as work on the reception area and external masonry which was in need of repair.

The roles and responsibilities of each Governor is being reviewed this term, but the current list of each Governor’s roles and responsibilities can be found on our school website. Governors have been busy visiting the school on a regular basis to ensure that they have oversight of the areas that they are responsible for and to ensure progress is made towards the objectives listed in the school’s Development Plan. This term’s monitoring visits have included health and safety, safeguarding, special educational needs, maths, early years, RE, geography and history.

It has also been a busy term for the staff and children of Little Waltham School. We would firstly like to thank the Friends of Little Waltham who organised a brilliant Christmas Bazaar and a visit from Santa for the children. The staff also did a wonderful job in organising the Key Stage 1 Nativity; the children all performed beautifully. Thank you also to all our families for your continued support for the school.

As you will know, this term both Little Waltham School and Ford End School undertook a formal consultation with stakeholders regarding the proposal of Federating the two schools. Governors would like to thank the parents and members of our community who participated in the consultation. Following this consultation process both Little Waltham Governors and Ford End Governors agreed that Federation was not the way forward for our two schools. Therefore, as you know, we look forward to having Mrs Maycock back full-time at Little Waltham School at the start of the new term in January. In the meantime, we would like to wish everyone at Little Waltham School a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Kind Regards,

The Governing Body