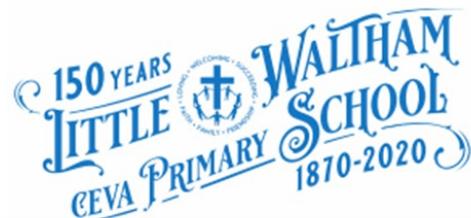


Governor Newsletter

Autumn Term 2020



Dear Parents,

We hope that this newsletter finds you all safe and well.

As we approach the festive break, it seems a good time to take a moment to look back and reflect on what has been one of the most challenging terms many of us have ever known.

In preparation for the return to school in September, following the enforced closure of schools and the subsequent Lockdown period, a rigorous Risk Assessment was undertaken and every detail considered. Governors felt confident that every step had been taken by Mrs. Maycock and school staff to ensure the safety of children, parents and staff. The well-considered procedures, which are now fully embedded and we have all come to know as part of daily school routines, have ensured the continued safe opening of the school - including through a second national Lockdown - and our children's learning has not been interrupted. Our thanks of course go to staff for their monumental efforts this term, including taking on additional work load, but also to you as parents for the part you have played in ensuring the continued safety of our school community. The children too can be immensely proud of the way in which they have approached the changes in school with a sense of resilience and an undeterred positive attitude.

Despite the restrictions and adaptations, staff have gone above and beyond in their efforts to ensure our children have experienced as much of 'normal' school life as possible. It's been wonderful seeing all the exciting learning activities taking place each week in the newsletter and how creative ways have been found to mark and celebrate the usual occasions in school such as autumn and the Harvest Festival and of course, Christmas!

At this festive time of year, the school is usually filled with trips to the Panto, Nativity play and Christmas Fair. And, whilst these things are not possible this year, the school has ensured our children have not missed out on the excitement, finding ways to adapt and ensure Christmas is still very much celebrated.

Governors wish everyone a very safe and happy festive break.



Welcome Ash Class Parents

Governors would like to extend a warm welcome to the families of the children who started in Reception at the beginning of this term. Despite the start to school looking and feeling a little different this year, it was wonderful to hear from school staff how quickly the children settled and how much they have been enjoying school life since.



Covid-19 Catch-Up Funding

Governors can confirm that the school will be receiving the government catch-up premium and have been liaising with Mrs. Maycock and school staff about how this will be used to ensure the right support is in place to support any gaps in learning as a result of the pandemic.

Governor Monitoring

Whilst school remains closed to non-essential visitors, governors have continued to find ways in which we can function remotely enabling us to meet virtually and adapt our monitoring and support to the school during these challenging times.

We feel confident that the school continues to provide the best possible care for all our children and that progress continues to be made.

We have been hugely grateful to staff and feel immensely proud of the school and its entire community for the way in which we have continued to thrive through this pandemic.

Thank you and Farewell

We are sad to be saying 'farewell' to one of our longest serving governors at the end of this year. Many of you may be familiar with Martin Gandy, who has served a staggering 30 years! But, for those of you who don't know much about Martin, we thought you might like to know a little about his time serving as a governor at Little Waltham School:

I think my first governors meeting was in 1990 as a "guest" and the official term of duty started in 1991. My children were both at the school and I had just completed 3 years on the "Friends" committee when I was invited to become a governor and it seemed the right time. Now 30 years later it is the right time to go and get some younger blood in.

Looking back, I suppose the biggest change has been in the technology field, I am not sure the school even had a computer in 1990 ... look at it now!

The school has grown considerably and now has nearly 3 times the number of pupils it had when my children were there. We have been incredibly fortunate to have had the benefit of excellent leadership during all this time and long may it continue, good staffing has been the backbone of the school.

The physical size of the school has increased dramatically over the years and I think my most memorable event is the opening in the '90's of the first big building project that included the computer suite and new classrooms and for which the governors had to fund raise tens of thousands of pounds.

I will miss my visits into school during the school day when you can see first hand how it all happens and watch and chat with the children.

However, I don't think I will have much problem filling my time as I have 2 of my grandchildren living next door so there is never a dull moment.

Martin, on behalf of all the past and present governors, school staff, parents and children—thank you for your commitment and service to the school over the years. We all wish you all the best for the future.

