



July 2022

Dear Parents,

As usual, I am writing to you at the end of the school year to feedback to you about the work the school governors have done this year.

But first, I would like to say what a challenging year this has been, once again, for the school. Covid did not disappear when the government ended restrictions and staff and pupil absences from covid and other illnesses have made life difficult all through the year. It is only due to the enormous goodwill of the school staff and their tremendous hard work that we have been able to keep all the classes open throughout the year, and I would like to express the governors' enormous thanks to all the school staff for their dedication to your children's education and well-being this year.

Managing the school finances is a key part of the work of the school governors, and we have been very keen this year to make sure we have been spending enough on enabling your children to catch up with any learning they missed during lockdowns. The excellent Phonics results in Year 1 this year is some evidence of this, but most credit is due to Miss Naish and the other staff who have worked with her to support the children in that class to make exceptional progress during the year.

We have also seen exceptional results from Year 6 in the Key Stage 2 SATs, with an overall 83% level in Reading, Writing and Maths, compared with a national level of 59%. Again, the governors wish to offer huge congratulations to the teachers and pupils in Year 6 for their tremendous hard work and also to their families who have supported them so well during the previous two years of disrupted education.

We have also seen very encouraging levels of achievement across the school. The governors look at levels of achievement for each class on a regular basis and also examine the progress of specific groups of children, anonymously, such as children with special needs, to make sure that they are making good progress. It is the role of the governors to challenge the school staff, if issues about achievement and progress arise, and to ensure that the school is ready to address those issues and make any improvements that are needed. We have all noticed that pupils are still not achieving the same standards in their written work as they were before the pandemic and this continues to be an important target for the whole school. However, I would add that this is being seen nationally, as well as in our own school.

Each governor takes on responsibility for a particular subject within the school and it has been wonderful to return to in-person visits to the school this term in order to report on these subject areas. We have been meeting pupils across the school to have conversations about different subjects: what they have learned, what they enjoyed most, what helped them to learn etc. Your children showed knowledge, enthusiasm and the ability to learn on their own as well as from their teachers.

The governors are also very glad to be able to meet parents face-to-face once again. Some of us attended Parents' Evenings this year and I spoke to the new Reception parents in July. We hope to re-start Parents' Friday coffee mornings from September this year, which governors help to run, giving parents another opportunity to chat to governors and to get to know them.

Being a school governor is a voluntary role and a very responsible one, especially in a single academy trust, such as Woodford Valley CE Academy. It is quite time-consuming, with committee meetings to attend as well as full governors' meetings, so I would like to finish by thanking all the wonderful people who serve as governors of Woodford Valley Academy. I rely on their knowledge, wisdom and support enormously and I know that they serve the school and your children with dedication and love.

Wishing you all a most enjoyable summer holiday and with every good wish to the children leaving the school for a most successful future.

Yours sincerely,

Margaret Knight
Chair of Governors