

# Wirksworth Junior School

## Welcome to the Autumn Term!

I would like to welcome you all to the first governor newsletter of the school year!

As we start our new school year, we do so with renewed energy and enthusiasm to get things done and to support the school to provide an excellent learning environment for all of our children.

School staff have planned a number of exciting activities this term, one of these being a whole school activity day exploring, discussing and learning about Modern British values. This was one of the areas that our last Ofsted inspection identified as being one for us to improve upon. Please look out for more news about this first activity day on this subject and get ready to support your children in any discussions or questions they may have!

The other key areas that governors have been working on with school staff are:

- Communication - including the website
- Safeguarding - including behaviour and attendance
- Pupil Premium- planning, progress and achievement

These all involve significant amounts of work and we have a different governor responsible for each of these areas.



## Upcoming Events

**9th October**

**Full Governors Meeting**

**12th October**

**Resources Committee Meeting**

**13th November**

**Teaching and Learning Committee**

**November 28<sup>th</sup>**

**Full Governors meeting**

## Important Announcement

**Look out for news of our governor recruitment packs being available soon for applications to Parent Governor role.**

**Communication:** We have been working hard to make the **website** work for you and also to comply with DfE (Department for Education) standards. We have done this by trying to make it easy to find your way from one page to another and that information you need is there and flows logically. If you have noticed anything that we can improve on, please let us know! The governor responsible for communication works closely with school staff and is monitoring how successful our methods of communication are and will report to the full governing body termly.



**Safeguarding:** includes a large number of policies in school that are designed to keep children safe in education. Staff have recently updated the **Behaviour policy**, with new reward systems in place as well as a new reporting and recording system.

**Attendance** matters greatly for us at Wirksworth Junior School. **Punctuality** and attendance have been a focus for staff during the first few weeks of term and this will continue throughout the school year. Staff are working with children on rewards for attendance and will work with families who need our support, to ensure that children attend school so that they can achieve their best. The governor for safeguarding will now monitor these half termly and there will be a report to the full governing body on how the policies are being implemented and how effective they are being.

**Progress** and **achievement** of children receiving **Pupil Premium funding** is important to us, as with all children. We have worked with staff to help them create more detailed action plans for how we will spend the funding to support the learning and achievement of those children. We employed the help of a specialist consultant for three days and we have a named governor working with staff; scrutinising, monitoring and reporting to the full governing body about the effectiveness of work undertaken.

**We are continuing to support Mrs Taylor as Acting Head Teacher and the other staff in school. Sue Stack, Consultant Head Teacher is continuing to provide leadership support whilst we plan how to make a more permanent leadership appointment.**

**And Finally.....I would like to say how nice it has been to see parents in the playground. It feels like there is a real buzz and it's an opportunity to make important contacts for school staff and parents.....long may it continue!**

**NEW...You can now contact governors by email:**

**[governors@wirksworth-jun.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:governors@wirksworth-jun.derbyshire.sch.uk)**

**You can still write to us, via the school office "For Attention of Governors"**

**You can still telephone and ask the staff in the office to pass a message on to us.**

**Best wishes,**

*Jannine*

**Jannine McCarthy**

**Chair of Governors**

**[chair@wirksworth-jun.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:chair@wirksworth-jun.derbyshire.sch.uk)**