



Excellence  
at Whittle



# Whittle Governors' Newsletter



Spring Term 2019



## *Welcome from the Chair of Governors*

Well it's been another exciting term here at Whittle! We have seen the successful appointment of our new head teacher which I enjoyed being a part of. We have seen some fantastic events around the school. I particularly enjoyed the wonderful Mother's Day Afternoon tea hosted by Early Years. The setting and effort by the staff and children was delightful. The successes in the library quiz, pupils having their poems published in the Poetry Wonderland Anthology and the wonderful Mornings of Music that several year groups have taken part in is lovely to hear.



I have been into school several times this term. My highlight was to hear the feedback from a 2-day review undertaken by the school with the Independent School Advisor, Paul Weston. It was wonderful to hear the fantastic things going on around the school, especially in Reception, and to hear the children's feedback on their achievements and how proud they are of their work was lovely to witness. I also enjoyed seeing some of the pupils' theme books; these showed a huge amount of creativity and a lot of hard work!

We have had busy governor's meetings which have covered many aspects of the school's day to day working. We have enjoyed hearing about the impact the new attendance initiatives have shown and also how Thrive is beginning to show real benefits for our pupils.

I would finally like to wish you all a wonderful Easter and I look forward to another busy and fun filled Summer Term.

*Stef Goodwin*

## Michelle Harris

It has been lovely to get to know more about Whittle this term after joining the Governing body at the start of the year and having recently been appointed as the new Headteacher. I am very much looking forward to joining Whittle after the Easter holidays and introducing myself to you in person.



I have been lucky enough to come into school a number of times this term and meet the children and staff. Everyone has been very welcoming and keen to share with me 'What makes Whittle special to them'. I have had the opportunity to visit classrooms and talk to the children about their learning. During our learning conversations, they told me how much they enjoy their curriculum and I was very impressed by my first look in their books. The children were so proud of their work and had clearly been inspired by the themes. They also told me about the new attendance awards and were very excited about the possibility of coming to school in non-uniform on a Friday.

I have already noticed how well the children work and play together in the classroom and outside and how well the older children support the younger ones. This is something that is really lovely to see. I look forward to meeting you all very soon and working alongside you. *Happy Easter.*

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## Amy Charles

It has been a pleasure to update the Governors this term on how Thrive is continuing to develop within school. We all know how important our children's social and emotional development is, so we have been proud to showcase how we are raising the profile of Thrive within school. Catherine Caunter has worked incredibly hard to create our Thrive room, our Thrive interventions are now up and running, and we were delighted to hold a coffee morning for parents earlier in the term. The Governors are keen to learn more about Thrive and the impact it has on children. With this in mind, I look forward to updating them on our Thrive journey in the Summer Term, and then working with them to ensure parents are equally well-informed of the benefits of Thrive.

We recognise that we are at the beginning of our Thrive journey. If you would like to learn more about Thrive, please do not hesitate to contact me through the school office or email [acharles@whittleacademy.org](mailto:acharles@whittleacademy.org)



## Gemma Graham

To ensure that Whittle complies with legislation and follows best practice in the management of health and safety, a termly Health and Safety meeting is held with staff and a Health and Safety Consultant. A number of key items are reviewed at each meeting including: site inspection reports with actions being agreed if any improvements are noted; accidents; fire drill reports; and any topical issues highlighted by the Health and Safety Consultant. It was agreed that before the next meeting feedback will be obtained from the head boy and girl to gain an insight into their perspective on the school site.



You can contact the Local Governing Board by:



Tel: 02476 610167

or

Email: [admin@whittleacademy.org](mailto:admin@whittleacademy.org)



**Our next local Governing Board Meeting will be held on: Wednesday May 8th @ 6pm**

## Neal Checker

Another school term nearly over and what a busy term it's been at Whittle! During this term we have seen the return of Miss Henry, which I know was welcomed by both parents and pupils in Year 3/4. Also, returning this term was Mrs Le Marquand to further strengthen the Whittle teaching staff. Excitingly there has been the appointment of a new Head Teacher, Mrs Harris, who I am sure will be a fantastic asset to the school and ensure Whittle continues to shine bright.

This term I conducted my first school visit as a governor, where I met with Mrs Upton to discuss the Thematic and Science curriculum for the school. As a scientist myself, I was pleased to see a mixture of theoretical and practical approaches used to capture the excitement and academic principles of the subject. It was also a real pleasure to have seen first hand the fun and innovative way Theme is delivered by staff across all year groups. It was clear to see the enthusiasm the children have for this subject and I was amazed at the quality and creativeness of the work produced by the children.

During this term preparations have been underway for the approaching SATs. Both Year 6 staff and pupils deserve a special mention as they continue to work hard to facilitate pupils in realising their true potential. Good luck everybody! Finally, I would like to wish everyone at Whittle a very happy Easter!

