



## OUR GOVERNORS

### Acting Chair of Governors

Paul Marshall

### Headteacher

Leila Murray

### Co-opted Governors

Sandra Boyd

Robert Brewer

Vernon Cowdell

Frances Gaudencio

Susan Hatton

Steve Kingcome

Laura Robb

### Parent Governors

Emma Brown

Roger Heath

Sarah Johnston

### Staff Governor

Darryl Sinclair



### Chair of Governors Report

I am delighted to contribute to my first Governors Newsletter further to my election as Chair of Governors in March. Firstly, can I offer my personal thanks to Frances Gaudencio for her significant contribution both as Governor and as Chair of the Governing Body. I have had the honour of serving alongside Frances for many years during which the school has undergone a transformation. The Governing Body will miss her vision, enthusiasm and her commitment.

I am also delighted that Sarah Johnston has joined the Governing Body as a Parent Governor following the recent election. It is a sign of a healthy Governing Body that we have contested elections for Parent Governor positions. We are always open to discuss with potential parent governors what the role entails. I look forward to working with Sarah.

As Francis wrote in her last newsletter, further to extensive consultation, the Governing Body has adopted a new vision for the school. Under the drive from Government, the structure of schooling nationally is undergoing widespread changes. In addition to these structural changes, locally, schools across mid-Sussex are dealing with the complexity of accommodating increasing pupil numbers. We are not immune from these pressures. Further to the adoption of the new vision statement, the Full Governing Body has set itself a key strategic task this year to turn the vision into an overall action plan which can then guide the Governing Body's priorities over the next three to five years. We will share our emerging thoughts through future newsletters as the work of the Governing Body moves forward.

Mrs Murray has provided a detailed breakdown of the results of the recent Parent Survey in her report. The Governing Body welcome the response of parents to the survey. We take the opinion of parents extremely seriously and formally consider the analysis of the results carefully, agreeing follow up actions where necessary. In this light, we note the comments regarding bullying. As you will be aware from earlier newsletters, working alongside Mrs Murray, we undertook a complete review of the bullying policy early in the academic year which was promoted to all children and parents. It is the role of governors, through our class visits and in associated discussions with pupils, to monitor the implementation of school policy. The full governing body has received consistent feedback from these visits that pupils feel safe in class and in school. We will continue to monitor the effectiveness of this and other key school policies and will take further action with the school as necessary.

Finally, on behalf of all governors, I thank Mrs Murray, Mr Kingcome, all the staff and all the pupils for their fantastic efforts over this academic year and look forward to even greater things in the next.

Paul Marshall



## SAFEGUARDING AT SCHOOL

The safeguarding of the children at The Windmills is a top priority for the governing body. As the safeguarding link governor, I regularly meet with Mrs Murray to ensure that the safeguarding policies are being observed. All relevant policies are on the school website under the Information tab.

A key document referred to is 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' and staff and governors are required to read relevant sections annually. Following my formal annual meeting with Mrs Murray, I write a report for the governing body. We are confident that the school has undertaken changes to the environment ensuring the children are kept as safe as it is reasonably possible to be.

When governors undertake class visits, we have an opportunity to talk to the children about how safe they feel in school and about the work the school undertakes around bullying. This year I visited year 5. The children were keen to tell me about the anti-bullying month which took place in the autumn term. We are also able to monitor the school's approach to Prevent during these visits.

West Sussex Governor Services, for the first time, introduced a Safeguarding Seminar this year which I attended. This confirmed that the school is taking its safeguarding responsibilities very seriously. If you have any safeguarding queries or concerns, as outlined in the policy, please do contact Mrs Murray.

**Sandra Boyd, Chair of Quality & Standard Committee**



## THE BUDGETTING CHALLENGES WE ARE FACING

This has been a challenging year for the Resources Committee due to the effect of budget pressures as a result of the cuts in central government funding and also demands due to growing pupil numbers. In this context, we welcome the long term cautious and careful management of the budget which has enabled us to maintain staffing numbers and to continue to invest year on year in improving the school at a time when schools both locally and nationally are making extremely difficult choices.

We are not complacent. Despite the campaigns seeking increase budget funding for education, we are assuming that pressure on budgets will not ease. With the support of Mrs Murray, we have set a realistic but lean budget this year focused very much on the needs of pupils and in support of the priorities set out in the school development plan. We have, however, not been able to fund everything that we would want to do. To provide us with more flexibility in setting future budgets, we continue to seek creative ways to increase the budget available to us, particularly through increased income from lettings.

We will continue to campaign for an increased budget for the school and will keep parents updated through this newsletter and other communications.

**Paul Marshall, Chair of Resources Committee**



## CHANGES TO THE GOVERNING BOARD

### A BIG THANK YOU & AU REVOIR TO FRANCES GAUDENCIO

This summer we are saying goodbye to Frances, who has worked tirelessly as the Chair of Governors for the Windmills Junior School. Her dedication to the continued development and improvement of the school helped see Windmills through the new building in 2015 and she has continued her hard work, helping to drive the development of the vision for the school for the next five years. She has been a tremendous asset to the Governing Board and we wish her all the best in the future as she continues her work in the village as part of the parish council and beyond!



### WELCOME TO OUR NEW PARENT GOVERNOR – SARAH JOHNSTON

Sarah was elected by you, the parents, to be one of your representatives on the Governing Board. We are very pleased to welcome her and hope she enjoys her time as a governor. We asked Sarah to give us a few words about becoming a governor and here's what she said:



' I'm thrilled to be joining the Windmills team of governors and thank you so much to all of you who voted: it's is great to be elected in. I hope to meet lots of you in person over the next few months and am really looking forward to working with our school to support our children and our community.'

## HAVE A LOVELY SUMMER HOLIDAY!

## SEE YOU BACK AT SCHOOL NEXT TERM.