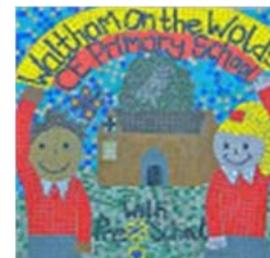


Waltham on the Wolds Church of England Primary School and Pre-School
Update from the Governing Body
Summer 2017



Dear Parents,

Another academic year has flown by! Governors continue to work hard to support the school and below is an update on some of the key things we have been doing this term:

Diocese of Leicester Academies Trust (DLAT) Monitoring Visit and Annual School Review

In the first week of term we welcomed a representative of the Diocesan Board to carry out a quality assurance monitoring visit of the school on behalf of the DLAT. As he is an OFSTED inspector, we were eager for his perspective on our work. He visited three lessons and an assembly; held discussions with headteacher, senior and middle leaders, governors and pupils; spoke with parents at the start of the school day, visited the pre-school and scrutinised pupils' work.

His report comments that:

- Waltham Church of England primary school demonstrates strong improvement since the previous review. The Headteacher and her staff have responded with determination and commitment to address those areas recommended for improvement identified in March 2016.
- Parents remain extremely satisfied with the quality of education provided for their children.
- Pupils continue to enjoy school, feel safe and are provided with plentiful opportunities to take responsibility.
- Teaching is effective; enjoyable and interesting lessons are well planned and delivered by teachers.
- Pupils are interested, motivated and work hard. He commented, "Pupils are a delight".
- Staff at Waltham are taking a lead in several areas; looking beyond their own community and sharing their expertise more widely afield.

He has also provided us with some suggestions for further improvement, which we are building into our School Development Plan for next year.

We will attend our Annual School Review with the Board of the DLAT in early September.

School Development Plan

In June, staff and Governors from Waltham and Redmile schools held a joint meeting to review and rate progress on this year's plans and provide input into priorities for next year. The Plans will now be written up over the summer. One of the school effectiveness advisors from the DLAT was also in attendance and was very impressed with our partnership work.

Housing Development

The situation regarding potential housing development in Waltham continues to develop. Governors attended the Special Planning Committee meeting at Melton Borough Council on 29 June when all applications were deferred again. We have worked with the local education authority to provide the Committee with the information they requested about what infrastructure improvements would be required at school to enable us to continue to deliver the high standard of teaching and learning that currently exists to an increased number of pupils. The site plans from the feasibility study and costings submitted are included in the Committee meeting documents available on the MBC website. We will continue to monitor any progress over the summer.

Welcome, Goodbyes and Thank you's

We would like to welcome our new Vicar, Revd John Barr, to our community and look forward to working with him.

Two of our most long-standing Governors have reached the end of their current term of office and have decided to step down. Alison Chick is our longest serving Governor and has been involved with the school for many years, as a parent, teacher and Governor. Miranda Pilkington has also been a Governor for over six years. They have both given so much time and brought a wealth of personal and professional experience to supporting the children and our school community. We would like to thank them both and will greatly miss having them as part of our team.

The Governors would also like to add their thanks to Margaret Boylan for her dedication to the school over many years. Margaret has got to know many Governors over this time and we will miss her friendly welcome (usually accompanied by a cup of tea!) when we are regularly in school for meetings.

Thank you to everyone who works so hard to support our school – the staff, the Governors and the many parents, carers and relatives who give up their time to help.

As always, please free to contact one of us if you have any comments or questions about the work of the Governing Body. We would also be delighted to hear from anyone that may be interested in becoming a Governor.

We wish you all a happy and relaxing summer break,

Louise Imm	Nigel Smith
Chair	Vice-Chair
On behalf of the Governing Body	