



Woodgrange Infant School

Governor newsletter – December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

With the first term of the new year under our belts, we wanted to share some highlights with you and some of the things we are focusing on during this year.

Governor coffee mornings

It has been great to meet some of you at our coffee mornings this term. We have discussed playful learning, the transition from Woodgrange to year 3, parent communications and the use of Parent Mail, school finances and the challenging wider environment, and who the governors are and what we do. There will be several more coffee mornings over the rest of the year so please come along when you can, to ask specific questions or simply join in the discussion.

We love hearing your feedback – what we do well as well as how we can improve. ***If you haven't already completed the parent survey, please do so.*** The form can now be completed on Parent Mail.

A focus on writing

This year the school is making a big push around writing. The goal is to ensure that all children develop the technical skills to become confident and fluent writers, while also encouraging a love of writing and the joy of being able to put your ideas down on paper. At our Curriculum Committee meeting this term, governors looked at examples of children's writing across the different year groups and were really impressed to see the improvements that have been made over a short space of time. This is something we will be coming back to over the year.

Preparing for Ofsted

We have now entered our 'Ofsted window' – i.e., the period in which we could receive our next Ofsted visit. Our last inspection was in November 2019, when our playful learning approach was just a few years old. Our inspector was impressed to see the breadth and depth of learning being delivered through play, and remarked on how happy and engaged children were in their learning. We are confident that at our next visit they will see continued improvement in our approach, while still maintaining happy, curious, and engaged learners.

PTA successes

The wonderful PTA have raised an astonishing £4,000 this term! At a time when many schools are struggling financially (Woodgrange being no exception), having such a strong PTA is a real asset and means there is a bit of extra money to support learning across the school. We will be highlighting some of the financial challenges facing the school in our next newsletter in the new year. In the meantime, we wanted to say a big thank you to the PTA and everyone who has volunteered, donated, bought cakes or Christmas cards, and otherwise supported the PTA this term.

Thank you to our teachers

I would like to end on a note of sincere thanks and gratitude for our amazing teaching staff at Woodgrange. As a Reception parent as well as a governor, I am continually amazed at the incredible dedication and creativity that they bring to our children's lives. It truly is a super-power.

Wishing you all a happy and restful Christmas break, and a happy new year. We look forward to seeing you all again in January.

The Woodgrange Governing Board