

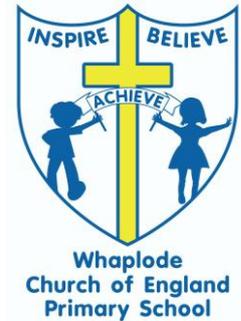


Whaplode (Church of England) Primary School
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GOVERNORS

30th March 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

As we approach the end of our Spring term, I would like to once again thank pupils and staff for their hard work and dedication over the last few months. SATS for children in years 2 and 6 are fast approaching and I am aware of just how much hard work is being put in by both staff and pupils throughout school. The pressures on schools these days are immense but I can see that our school is striving and we are still continually working hard towards achieving the Ofsted grading of Outstanding.

The Governing Body is continually monitoring various aspects of school and we are all attending relevant training sessions to enhance our skills, enabling our Governing Body to ever improve and grow in strength.

'It is education outside the box, outdoor learning, hands on discovery in a natural setting and so much more' Mrs Cook monitoring her buddy class during a Forest School session

'Once again I was able to see that school is keeping a thorough record of all Safeguarding which is very frequently updated' Mrs Hooper monitoring safeguarding.

Our journey to academise under Lincoln Anglican Academy Trust (LAAT) is well underway and we are expecting our conversion to academy status to complete on 1st July 2017. There has been a lot of work going on behind the scenes but there should be minimum disruption to everyday school life. By academising with LAAT, it allows us to keep our own identity and ethos which is something that I am particularly pleased about.

Once again, parents' evenings have been well attended and the years 3 and 4 production of Hansel and Gretel was brilliant; a big thank you to both pupils and staff involved. Governors have been working with the School Parliament focusing on road safety. We ask all parents to park safely when bringing and collecting children to and from school.



It was disappointing that the governor coffee afternoon was not well attended. Governors were on hand to answer questions or to discuss any concerns you may have. The Governing Body hopes that the next coffee event is better attended.

As part of our ongoing plan to improve the visibility of our Governing Body, we have included a focus on another of our Foundation Governors, Vanessa Cook:

I have lived in Whaplode with my husband, a local farmer, for over 20 years and our two children attended the school some 20 years ago.

I have worked in Lincolnshire schools for over 25 years now, both in primary and secondary settings, on the administration, finance and business management aspects of education. I still work part-time in schools and with the National Association of School Business Management which gives me a great deal of insight into how different schools operate and keeps me up-to-date with the Education Agenda.

A couple of years ago, I felt I had the time to be able to help in some way in our local community and was delighted to be appointed as a Foundation Governor in Autumn 2015. I am the Year 2 buddy governor and although I cannot commit regularly to visiting during the school day, I am keen to participate in the leadership and governance of the school. I feel that my years of work experience in schools, with governing bodies and educational authorities mean that I can effectively contribute to the delightful learning environment that is Whaplode (Church of England) Primary School.

As the school is coming to the end of its financial year, governors have a duty to oversee the financial performance of the school. Good financial performance delivers better outcomes therefore it is important that governors continually monitor the school budget, question expenditure, ensure savings are being made and make sure the school is future planning financially. There has been a lot of talk recently over school budgets and the National Funding Formula which is proposed to bring a fairer funding system to all schools. It will be important for us as governors to ensure that the next school budget is set realistically and that pupils receive the maximum benefit through curriculum planning from the funding received.

Lastly, I would like to wish you all a well-deserved Easter break.

Yours sincerely

Mr Chris Mackman
Chair of Governors

