



December 2016

Dear parents,

I am writing to you in my capacity as Chair of Governors to give you some information about the role of the Governing Body at Worth School.

All schools have a Governing Body in one form or another. Our role is to hold the school to account and to do this; we focus on three core strategic functions. They are:

1. Holding the Head Teacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils.
2. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure money is well spent.
3. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.

With this in mind, we work with school leaders to develop a school plan for each academic year. Particular areas of focus this year are attendance, reading, spelling and writing and I'm sure many of you will have noticed the extra interventions in place to strengthen our performance.

Our Governing Body consists of nine members: Mrs Moore, Mrs Sandy, Kate Dymant (Chair), Shelley Nye (Vice Chair), Valerie Hardstone, Kaimes Beasley, Norman Clarke, Jason Blown and Tamzin Wood. Each governor is responsible for an area of governance ranging from finance, safeguarding and website to pupil voice and quality of teaching.

Being a Governor is both a privilege and responsibility and part of that role is to ensure that the school meets the necessary standard set by the Department for Education. Quite rightly, Ofsted holds us accountable for this and we are required to be part of any Ofsted inspection.

Worth Primary is a very special school. It is hard to define what makes it so unique but when I talk to the children, it is clear how much ownership they have of their school and how safe and happy they feel. The older children take on a nurturing role and willingly give up their time to support the younger ones.

Parental support too, is exceptional. Not only do so many of you work with the school to support your child's learning but also in countless other ways. The PTA at Worth is outstanding and, under the leadership of the indefatigable Amy Kennett, has raised thousands of pounds for the school. I know that many of you help out in other ways such as being reading volunteers, weeding the boundaries, hedge cutting and making bunting for the playground. It is an overused cliché but there is a strong sense of being one big family and we are very fortunate to have that.

I must also mention the dedicated staff that work tirelessly day in, day out to ensure that your child's learning journey is the best it can be. So much of their work is unseen - lesson delivery is only one part of the work and so much time is spent planning, setting the curriculum and researching ways in which to make learning fun and engaging.

As you may have noticed, Mrs Moore is absent from school as she is unwell. We wish her all the best for a speedy recovery. In the meantime, Mrs Sandy, Assistant Head Teacher, is deputising and it is very much business as usual with a full schedule of festive activities.

I'm sure that you will join me in wishing all the staff a well deserved rest over the holidays.

All that remains is for me to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Best wishes,

Kate Dymant