

'We are committed to provide a nurturing
stimulating environment
which empowers each child to realise their
potential'
'Your Child, Our Inspiration'



Governing Body Newsletter – January 2019

On behalf of the Governing Body "Happy New Year" to you and all our parent/carer families.
We hope you all had a brilliant Christmas.

The School Year So Far

Autumn term, the first term of the academic year, finished off in the festive spirit with the Christmas Concert in the unique setting of St. Anne's church. We hope you met some members of the Governing Body there. If not, we will be at other school events during the year and you can always drop us a line via email (details further on in the newsletter) or put a note in our pigeon hole.



Ofsted Outstanding

We retained our Ofsted outstanding performance. The Governing Body would like to express their thanks to the whole Whitecross team on a fantastic team effort. The staff were recognised for their **very caring** behaviour and high **skill** level who **inspire children to learn**.

You can read the Ofsted report in full by clicking on the "Read Ofsted report" from the home page of the school website or by clicking on the link below:

http://www.whitecross.derby.sch.uk/files/quicklink_documents/OfstedReport2018.pdf

An excerpt taken from the report: "Because of excellent teaching, children are keen to explore. Staff show them, for example, how to look for minibeasts in soil by using real spades. Children were keen to explain to me how they had spotted a worm and a frog in the ground, but 'hadn't seen any slugs or spiders yet'. Children are also keen to try new experiences, such as learning how to swing on a rope by holding on tightly and sitting on the knotted part. Despite their young age, their attention levels are high."

Garage Conversion

2018 saw a significant investment in the Whitecross premises with the conversion of the garage into another room. This conversion was completed on schedule before Christmas and this fabulous space will be put to use in the spring term. Keep an eye out for how this area will be used.



Down to School Business

The Governing Body works with the nursery staff team to provide the best possible education for the children who attend Whitecross.

In the autumn term the School Improvement Plan (SIP) was set for this academic year. This can be found in the entrance hall at nursery and on the Whitecross website under "Our School" or by clicking the link below:

[Whitecross Nursery School - School Improvement Plan](#)

We will keep you updated via the half termly school newsletter on our visits to the school and how these relate to the SIP.



An Introduction to Your New Whitecross Governors

Last term we welcomed some new members to the Governing Body.

Clare Cole (Parent Governor)

I am mum to Henry, who attended in 2016, and Albert, who is currently enjoying the Whitecross experience. I have been so impressed with the nurturing and caring environment at Whitecross and becoming a parent governor is the perfect way of giving something back. I am over the moon to be part of the team, contributing predominantly my finance skills.



Matt Scarborough (Co-opted Governor)

My son William joined Whitecross in September 2018. From day one it was clear, by how well he settled in, that this was a fantastic setting which I was keen to support. In the same month I joined the Governing Body with no previous experience but felt that my programme management and property management skills could contribute towards the nursery's continued success.

In a short period I have learnt a tremendous amount about school life and how important it is to have a strong governing body to support the fantastic work that the nursery team do.



Parent Governor Vacancy

The opportunity has arisen for a parent governor to join the Governing Body. We can have two parent governors at any one time. We welcome applications from any interested parents or carers of children currently at Whitecross. Any range of skills would be of interest. Letters containing more information on this have recently been sent out and if you have any further questions on what is involved, please get in touch:

How to Contact the Governors

If you have any messages or would like to discuss anything with the Governors, please leave a note in the Governor pigeon hole (next to the children's pigeon holes). Alternatively, you can contact us via email on clerk@whitecross.derby.sch.uk or chair@whitecross.derby.sch.uk.