

Your Child, Our Inspiration



Governing Body Newsletter – Autumn Term 2021

Hello, we hope this finds all our families safe and well and looking forward to the holiday season. While Governors have been delighted to have been able to attend some Nursery events this term, the ability to talk has been limited due to face masks and social distancing! Therefore, we would like to take this opportunity to share with you some of the work we have been doing during this busy Autumn term.

Governance during this term

The Governing body at Whitecross have continued to meet virtually throughout this term to minimise risks to staff and governors and have held two virtual board meetings and two virtual committee meetings (Standards committee and Resources Committee).

Governor meetings have focused on agreeing the School Development Plan and Governing Body objectives for 2021/22 in line with the new school vision and strategy, alongside completing our statutory duties around safeguarding, SEND, health & safety, and policy review.

Some Governors have been able to resume in person Nursery monitoring visits, while following a strict protocol of lateral flow testing and mask wearing. It has been a delight to see the children so happy and engaged in their play and to have the opportunity to speak with the wider staff team.

Parent Events

We were very pleased that Governors were able to attend the Literacy and Maths parent evenings this term, and the wonderful Christmas performance by the children in the Nursery garden this month. I'm sure all the parents, carers and grandparents who were able to attend one of these performances will agree they were quite magical. Our thanks goes to the staff team for their work in pulling this event together and finding a way to make it covid safe, and to all the parents/carers/grandparents who gave so generously to the raffle and tea/coffee fundraiser.



Autumn Term Activity

Alongside our statutory duties the governing body have worked on the following activity during this term;

- Approving the School Development plan for this academic year, to include priorities on the following;
 - Supporting the mental health and wellbeing of all children and staff.
 - Further development of daily outdoor learning and implementation of a permanent Forest School provision.
 - Further development of a strong language enriched environment and love of books and stores.
- Agreeing governor objectives and the annual work-planner for 2021/22.
- Reviewing the outcomes of the transition process for children who started Nursery in September.
- Completion of annual review of statutory policies.
- Completion of scheduled finance reviews.
- Completion of health and safety, SEND and safeguarding monitoring visits.
- Completion of Mental Health & Wellbeing monitoring visit.
- Developing governor understanding of latest Ofsted inspection framework.

Governing Body Focus for 2021/22

In addition to our statutory duties, the Governing body have agreed the following priorities for 2020/21;

- Ensure we continue to support the wellbeing of our staff, children and families during the current pandemic and in line with the School Development plan.
- Ensure the new school vision and strategic plan is understood by all and embedded.
- Ensure all Governors understand the latest Ofsted framework and expectations.

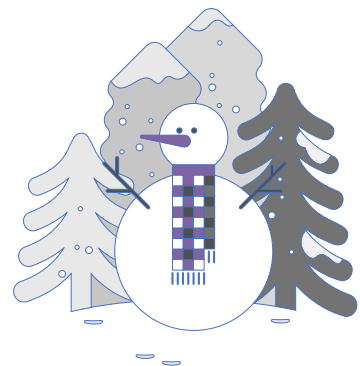
Governor Vacancy

We currently have a vacancy on our Governing board and would be delighted to hear from anyone who may be interested in this role. Further details will be sent out in January, so please look out for this.

And finally...

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff at Whitecross for their amazing work and commitment throughout this very busy term, and all our families for their continued support.

We wish you and your loved ones a very happy and healthy Christmas and look forward to seeing you in the new year.



Contacting the Governing Body

Further details of the governing body can be found on the Nursery website and governors can be contacted by emailing our clerk to governors at clerk@whitecross.derby.sch.uk, or our chair of governors at chair@whitecross.derby.sch.uk.