

# WOODSIDE GOVERNORS' NEWSLETTER

Working together for Woodside School...

January 2018

## Who are we?

Meet the governors...

The Woodside Governing Body is made up of:

- 3 elected parent governors (Claire Horton-Bussey, Wayne Rudge, Rebecca Welch)
- 1 local authority governor (Alison Davis, chair)
- 1 elected staff governor (Mrs Fawkes)
- 1 headteacher (Mrs Davis)
- 7 co-opted governors (Maurice Bent, Gina Matthews, Mrs Cotterell, Richard Hall, Verity Brain, Margaret Manning, vacancy).

We meet together as a full governing body three times a year.

We also have two committees: the Business Committee and the Curriculum & Standards Committee, which each meet three times a year, too.

## Minutes

Keeping informed

Minutes from the governing body meetings can be requested from the office at any time.

We will soon be introducing a Governors' 'Who's Who' to the reception area, so you can put a face to the names and we will be including minutes there, too.

## Happy New Year!

An exciting year ahead...

Welcome back to school – we hope you all had a wonderful Christmas.

As 2018 begins, the governors at Woodside School are already busy making plans for the year ahead.

Maths continues to be a focus, as it has been for the last couple of years. New resources have been purchased (including the Collins textbooks that are used daily), staff training has been undertaken, governor monitoring visits have taken place, the timetable has been adjusted to accommodate daily 'Rainbow Maths', and we have liaised with other schools in the area about our Maths provision. We also hope to run another Maths Week in 2018, as the one in 2017 was a great success at raising the profile of Maths in the school.

As ever, it would be helpful if you could support your child's learning at home – whether it is making sure homework has been done, helping your child learn their times tables, or spending time together on the My Maths website.

You can log on to <https://www.mymaths.co.uk>  
Username: woodsideps  
Password: circle

Choose an area of maths and a year group activity. Click on 'Lesson' to work through lots of fun activities using the pages numbered down the left-hand side.

Teaching and learning methods have changed a great deal since some of us were at school, so we will be offering a Maths workshop evening for interested parents/carers soon.

If you ever have any questions about your child's work, do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher.

## Pupil Premium & Free School Meals

Please register and help the school – and your child's education

Did you know that the school gets a significant amount of extra money (£1,320) for every pupil eligible for free school meals?

So even if your child doesn't want school meals, or is in KS1 and gets free school meals anyway, do please apply so the extra pupil premium money can be given to the school to benefit your child.

**According to Department for Education figures, an average of 11% of families entitled to free meals do not claim them – this sizeable chunk of money could make a real difference to our school and your children's education, now and in the future.**

To qualify, you need to be in receipt of:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers' Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit provided you do not receive Working Tax Credit and that your annual household income does not exceed £16,190
- Guaranteed Pension Credit (GPC)
- Income Related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Working Tax Credit 'run on' – payment you receive for a further four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- You could also be eligible if you receive Universal Credit

Gina in the office can give you further information, or you can apply direct to the local authority via <http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/> (and search for Free School Meals).

Alternatively, pick up an application from Shire Hall in Gloucester – or call them on 01452 425390 to be sent a form in the post.

## Training & development

Committed to improving

Governors have been on a number of courses over the past year, to help develop our skills and knowledge, so we can better serve the school. Here are just a few of the courses we have attended:

- Safeguarding
- Preparing for Ofsted
- Network meetings with other local primaries
- Supporting disadvantaged children with nurture
- Working effectively with clerks
- Using interventions to make an impact

## Over to you

What would you like to see in these governor newsletters? Let us know your suggestions via the office.

We hope to be at the next parents' evening again, serving teas & coffees, so you can chat to us there, too.