

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are now several weeks into the new academic year and hope that it has been an exciting (albeit nervous) start for those new to the school; and a happy return for everyone else.

As we approach the season of gloomy morning starts, darkening afternoons and coughs and colds (!) and, dare I say it, Christmas, the school continues to be characterised by the noisy chatter of little people enjoying (for the most part) their time at school and which I hope continues through the year. As always, Can I, on behalf of the Governing Body, thank you all, as well as the staff, both teaching and non-teaching, for ensuring that the school is the buoyant and positive learning environment that everyone who enters the school notices immediately.

Finally, I would just like to say that Great Wilbraham School has a very positive reputation for its friendly atmosphere, its hard-working professional staff and the mutual respect which is part of the school ethos. I would encourage you all to approach a Staff Member in the playground at drop off if you have any concerns or questions in relation to your child/children. An important aspect of our school is the continued development of the partnership between parents, carers and staff to the benefit of the children attending the school.

With every good wish to you all

Brendan

Chair of Governors

Meeting of the Governing Body: 10th September 2019

This was principally an administrative meeting and as such was mainly spent on ensuring that the governance of the FGB is fit for purpose for the forthcoming year. To this end, I was returned as the Chair of Governor for the academic year and Lewis Robinson was returned as vice-chair of the FGB. We also welcome Katie Luddy as an Associate member to the FGB and agreed to Claire Daunton, who some of you may know as your local district councillor, coming on board as a co-opted governor, and who we will welcome formally at our next FGB.

As a Full Governing Body we agreed our standing orders and committed to our 'Code of Conduct'. Finally, dates for future FGB meetings, sub-committee meetings and learning walks were agreed in principal.

Finally, the FGB, on reflecting upon the minutes of the last FGB meeting towards the end of the summer term 2019, and gave some consideration to several the challenges over the previous academic year and how we will support Mr Brown and the senior staff.

One of the challenges that was of concern was the issue of staff/parent communications.

It is recognised by the FGB that on occasion there will likely be issues that arise during your child's school career that merit discussing with school staff. If there are specific issues related to your child's school experience, I would encourage you to contact the specific class teacher via email on [admin@greatwilbraham.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@greatwilbraham.cambs.sch.uk) at the earliest opportunity so that the issue might be addressed appropriately and in a timely fashion. I would ask and expect that correspondence is conducted with due courtesy and respect and that the impact of 'robust' conversations on parties is always kept in mind.

It is likely noticeable that the school has made changes to the security of the school estate and refined the school's communication policy. The FGB are fully supportive of these measures such that they speak to ensuring that GWPS is a safe and secure environment for all. We will continue to monitor this area going forward.

Further, we have started to build on initial conversations started last year on the strategic future of the school. To this end, a small group of governors alongside Mr Brown, Mrs Neish and Mrs Crisp have met to flesh out how the school will move forward in these straitened financial times (whatever the Government might have said about school funding), continue to ensure that the school curriculum is relevant and meets the changing needs of young people, and giving thought to how we ensure our school minimises its impact upon the environment; whilst retaining the sense of settledness,

*contentment and approachability that generally characterises the school. It is our intention to meet through this next academic year and develop a medium/ long term strategic plan for the school. If you wish to know the dates of the future FGB meetings please contact the Clerk on [clerk@greatwilbraham.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:clerk@greatwilbraham.cambs.sch.uk)*

*Brendan Reid (Chair of Governors)*