



The New East Worthing Primary School

29th November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

New East Worthing Primary School - update from the Temporary Governing Body

As Governors of the Temporary Governing Body (TGB) for the new school, we wish to share with you information about who we are, our background and the work we have undertaken since our appointment in late July 2023, but more recently since the two schools started back after the Summer break. You will find a number of pen pictures attached to this letter which we hope you will take the time to read and that they will helpfully tell you about us and what skills and experience we collectively bring to this important role.

In establishing the temporary governing body, governors were invited from both existing schools as well as other independent governors. Achieving this balance of governors is so important as it helps to deliver one of our key priorities which is to capture the ambition of both schools, their values and ethos, good teaching practice and nurturing pastoral care given to pupils and ensures it is weaved together into one to help shape the direction of the new school.

By way of recap, our role is very clear, it is as any school governing body, to set the strategic direction and support the new headteacher to help guide and bring together the two schools of Chesswood Junior and Lyndhurst Infants into one new Primary School, based on the Chesswood Road site. This will be a new phase of school opening in September 2024 as a through Primary School serving children and families starting school in Reception through to Year Six. This involves working alongside the headteacher for the new school, Mrs Diane South, the other senior leaders and staff of both schools, pupils and their parents and carers, as well as colleagues from West Sussex County Council.

There are many strands to this work, in September the most pressing and important decision needed was to complete an assessment process to determine who the new headteacher should be. That extensive assessment process followed a prescribed WSCC format and was successful, it identified that Mrs South was our preferred candidate and she was duly appointed. She and we are now working alongside each other as we focus on the work ahead. As a temporary Governing Body we have great confidence in Mrs South as she leads delivery of the work to form the new school. She brings strong experience from across all age stages within a primary setting as well as managing a Special Support Centre and other educational work that brings added value to this role.

This work falls into a number of categories including:-

- Development of a new set of school Vision and Values
- Adapting the existing school site at Chesswood Road to be suitable for a Primary setting (Reception to Year 6), including site safety and security
- Ensuring a well structured, broad, rich and inclusive curriculum that fully includes adapted provision for pupils with Special Education Needs and Disability
- Establishing a Special Support Centre at Chesswood Road
- Ensuring that the children remain happy, safe, nurtured and supported
- Supporting the children's wellbeing and understanding of the changes
- Engagement with parents, carers and stakeholders
- Supporting the staff as we amalgamate into one team
- Strong financial management
- Identification of a new school name
- Establishing a new (cost focused) school uniform and transitional arrangements

These strands of work are not exhaustive and I'm pleased to say that work in all of these areas has progressed and continues to be worked on.

You will have already received a letter from Mrs South inviting suggestions for a school name, as well as a survey about school uniforms. A large number of you have already made suggestions about a name and contributed to the uniform survey, a big thank you.

We are in the process of collating your responses and have established smaller working groups of governors to review and collate your suggestions and present them to the TGB. We then anticipate either coming back to you with either a summary or holding a workshop in the new year, so that you can give us your final views and help influence the decisions. Your involvement and feedback in all of this is very important to us as we seek to build the new community school.

Some of you have asked why we are undertaking a name and uniform change. The name change is required as neither existing school name reflects the primary phase of the school from September 2024. This is a new chapter in the provision of primary sector education in East Worthing and in bringing two schools, two sets of pupils and two staff bodies together it is important that this is done in a way that creates a new identity, fosters bonds and a joining together. We are conscious that the cost of school uniforms is an important factor for all parents. Our aim is to establish a new uniform that is smart, yet classroom functional, that will draw on the basis of the uniforms already being worn and will allow a transitional period where existing uniforms will be capable of being utilised and as children either join the school or grow out of them they can transition to the new uniform. Our aim is to establish a uniform that keeps the purchase cost low and is wherever possible available on the high street.

Alongside all of this we are also working closely with West Sussex County Council (WSCC) and their Estates Team to understand the building adaptation work that will be needed to be completed on the new school site and will keep you regularly informed about how that is progressing.

Further details of workshops or drop-in opportunities on many of these matters will be sent to you as all of this work progresses, so that you can share with us your thoughts and ideas.

Should you have any questions that have not been answered in this or other communications about this work plan, then please email the Clerk to Governors jackie.gatenby@westsussex.gov.uk .

If your question or concern is directly related to a pupil that is currently in either of the schools, then please contact the relevant school and talk to their class teacher or a member of senior staff there.

Kevin Jenkins

Chair of the Temporary Governing Body.