

Woodcote Primary School

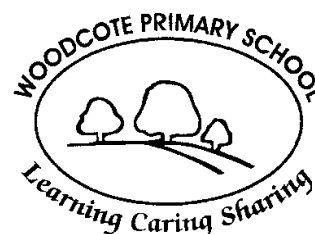
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Chair of Governors: Helen Pearce Harvey



Governor Newsletter – Spring 2024

Welcome from the Chair

A warm welcome to all our parents, carers and members of the Woodcote Primary School community to the Spring 2024 Governor Newsletter. It's been an incredibly busy six months since the start of term and who can believe we are heading at pace into spring! The newsletter focuses our tremendous SATS results achieved by our year 2 and 6 pupils last year and a summary of the feedback from the parent survey we conducted at the end of the summer term.

In terms of the governing board, it's been a busy time too and some of the articles in this newsletter share more insights into this work. As a whole governing board we came together with the teaching staff again in January to discuss curriculum and delve into more detail around the progression of learning through the school. All involved found the evening beneficial both in terms of information sharing and, for the governors, a great opportunity to get a better understanding of curriculum expectations throughout the school.

We hope you find this newsletter informative and look forward to seeing many of you during the spring term.

Helen Pearce Harvey

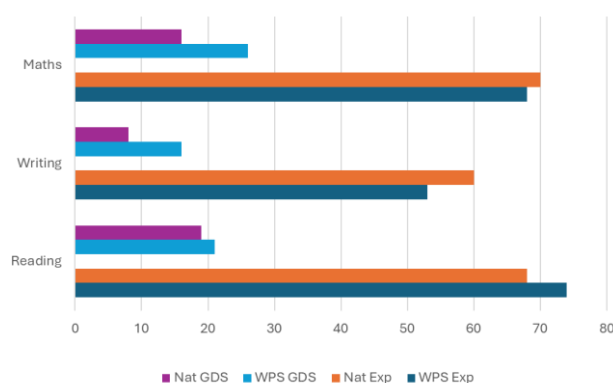
Years 6 and 2 SAT Results

The Governors were delighted with Woodcote Primary School's summer 2023 SAT results.

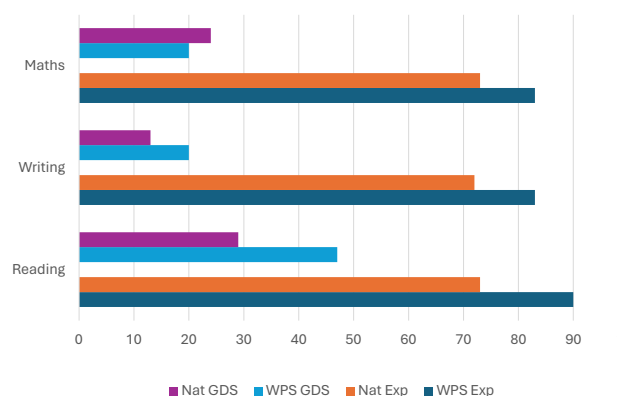
'Standard Assessment Tests' ("SATS") were taken by pupils in year 2 and year 6 to check their educational progress. They are a key indicator to help parents and government review a school's performance.

The graphs below show how our Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 1 pupils' results compare to national results. Data is split into those meeting the Government's 'expected standard' (EXP) and those demonstrating working at 'greater depth within the expected standard' (GDS).

Key Stage 1 (Year 2) %



Key Stage 2 (Year 6) %



We are tremendously proud of these results for the leavers of 2023. With the help and support of the teachers at Woodcote, the pupils showed real resilience through Covid and have been able to significantly exceed national results in every subject at EXP and demonstrated greater depth in reading and writing well ahead of national average, an outstanding achievement!

The governors were especially pleased that the reading performance was so high. Having invested in resources and dedicated time into the timetable to focus on reading, these results were very heartening. This is a true testament to the dedication and encouragement provided by all the teachers at the school. No doubt also to many hours put in by parents too!

Years 6 and 2 SAT Results - continued

Key stage 1 results, with a cohort of only 19, appear less strong, however, we are extremely confident about the high standard of teaching that pupils receive.

The Governors are conscious that care is needed in interpreting results at Key Stage 1 level, especially with lower class numbers. Results can be exaggerated by a smaller class. [For example, 3 fewer pupils in a class of 30 not reaching the expected standard will have a -10 percentage point impact on the school's score. 3 fewer pupils in a class of 20 will have a -15% impact.]

The SAT results are one factor which helps us to work with the teachers to ensure the strategy is working for the maximum benefit of all pupils.

We are still greatly encouraged by the results for Key Stage 1 in reading both at expected standard and greater depth, again reflecting the investment the school is making into reading materials and time to encourage confident readers in the school.

We would like to thank all the school staff for their hard work and dedication over the last year. Thank you, and well done to everyone involved in SATs last year.



Update from the board

We are delighted to confirm that following the recent parent governor elections, Nicola Baker will be your new parent governor on the Woodcote Primary School Governing Board. We will introduce Nicola further in our next newsletter but Nicola comes from a strong background of HR and education and I have no doubt will make a great addition to the board.

Woodcote Primary School – Governing Body Constitution March 2024

Full Governing Body

Helen Pearce Harvey – COG	Martin Towers – Parent Governor
Liz Hunt – Head Teacher	Phil White – Parent Governor
Sarah Peacock – Staff Governor	Sarah McGurk – Parent Governor
Diana Hadaway – Co-opted Governor	Nicola Baker – Parent Governor
Andy Hawley – Co-opted Governor	Vacant – LA Governor
Chris Butterfield – Co-opted Governor	Caroline Bowers – Clerk
Sarah Strudley – Co-opted Governor	

Strategy Committee (Chairs)

Helen Pearce Harvey – COG
Liz Hunt – Head Teacher
Andy Hawley – Governor
Martin Towers – Governor
Chris Butterfield – Governor
Sarah McGurk – Governor

Resources Committee

Andy Hawley – Chair
Liz Hunt – Head Teacher
Jane Gillman – School Business Manager
Phil White – Bldg & Maintenance & H&S Governor
Helen Pearce Harvey – Governor
Sarah McGurk – Governor

Standards & Achievement Committee

Martin Towers – Chair
Liz Hunt – Head Teacher
Sarah Peacock – Staff Governor
Marie Wornham – Deputy Head Teacher
Diana Hadaway – Governor
Helen Pearce Harvey – Governor
Chris Butterfield – Governor
Sarah Strudley – Governor

Pay & Staffing Committee

Chris Butterfield – Chair
Liz Hunt – Head Teacher
Helen Pearce Harvey – Governor
Diana Hadaway – Governor

Communications Committee

Sarah McGurk – Chair
Liz Hunt – Head Teacher
Helen Pearce Harvey – Governor
Vacancy – Governor

Link Governors

Safeguarding – Helen Pearce Harvey
Finance – Andy Hawley
Early Years – Diana Hadaway
SEN – Sarah Strudley
Wellbeing – Chris Butterfield
Buildings & Maintenance, H&S – Phil White
GDPR – Chris Butterfield

Curriculum Link Governors

English – Helen Pearce Harvey
Maths – Andy Hawley
Early Years – Diana Hadaway
Humanities (History, Geography, MFL) – Martin Towers
Wellbeing (PHSCE & RE) & PE – Chris Butterfield
Science (DT, Science, Computing) – Phil White
Arts (Art & Music) – Sarah Strudley

Associate Members

Marie Wornham – Deputy Head
Jane Gillman – Business Manager

Major Projects Working Group

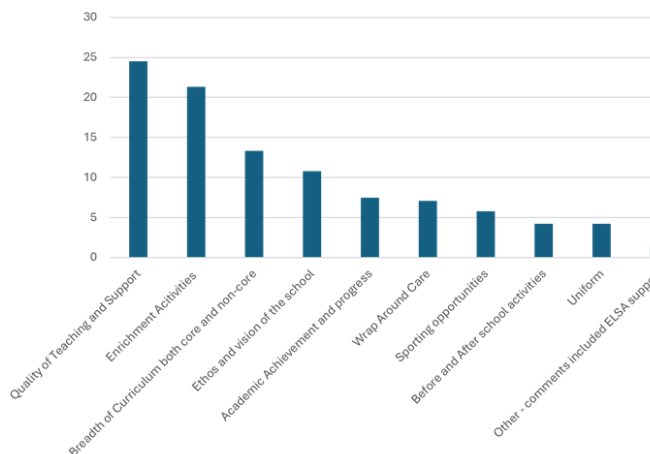
Helen Pearce Harvey – Chair
Liz Hunt – Head Teacher
Andy Hawley – Governor
Phil White – Governor
Sarah McGurk – Governor

Parent Survey Feedback

At the end of the last academic year, we asked parents to complete a parent survey covering a broad range of topics from behaviour, responsiveness of the school, achievement of our pupils and areas for improvement. We had a good response to the survey with 84 individual replies.

In general, the results were very positive across the whole survey. We were delighted to see that almost all responses stated that their children are happy at the school and 100% feel safe. Similarly, most parents agreed the school encouraged and celebrated good behaviour and respect and where there had been any instance of bullying, the situation was dealt with swiftly and appropriately in all cases.

Question 6: What do you consider to be the top three characteristics of our school?



The standard of our wonderful teaching staff shone through as a top three characteristic of the school, closely followed by the varied and fun enrichment activities that bring learning to life and really enhance and extend the learning across the school.

Parents also identified breadth of curriculum, ethos and vision and academic achievement as their top characteristics of the school. This is reassuring as these four characteristics are central to our school strategic vision of offering the children of our community an outstanding quality of rounded education.

Finally, we had a large number of suggestions for “one thing to improve about the school” which is something that is always interesting to hear and something that will be discussed and tracked as

part of our Standard and Achievements committee.

Some of the comments focused on:

- Further art, sport, music, foreign languages and drama
- Senco available more often and more support for SEND children
- Bring back the curriculum evenings
- School buildings need maintenance and updating

Do you have any further comments?



Whilst overall, the results were extremely positive, both the school leadership team and governing body are aware that there is always more to do! This survey has helped identify what matters to our parent community and the results and feedback will be analysed and discussed in our ongoing Standards and Achievement meetings in the coming months.

We would like to thank parents/carers for taking the time to respond to the survey. These surveys are an excellent platform for you to have your say on school matters.

