

William Penn Governors' Newsletter – Spring 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to the first governor's newsletter of 2024! I hope you and your families all enjoyed a fantastic Christmas break.

Staffing update

Mr Kear and Mrs Stephenson continue to be absent from school due to illness and the governing body sends best wishes to them and hope that they will return to good health soon.

Mrs Constable is Acting Headteacher at the school during their absence and is being supported by Joy Waelend who you might also have seen around the school. Joy is a semi-retired Head Teacher with a huge amount of experience and a matching enthusiasm to ensure that children have the best possible experience at the school. Mrs Constable and Joy have been out visiting other locality schools, building networks and picking up on best practices to bring back to Coolham.

The governing body would like to thank Mrs Constable for stepping into the role of Acting Head teacher. We are all working in close partnership to further develop the curriculum and make improvements to the school. You might have seen that over the Christmas period some sliding curtains have been installed between the Cadbury and Fox classrooms. This will enable the children in both areas to better concentrate on their lessons and gives us the opportunity to improve the library area and invest in new books for the children.

We are also lucky to have Mrs Lees as our temporary school business manager. Mrs Lees comes to us with a lot of experience and knowledge and has already been instrumental in modernising and improving some of the school systems over the Autumn term.

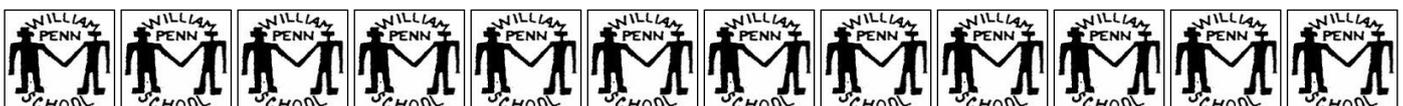
Party time with the PTA at William Penn

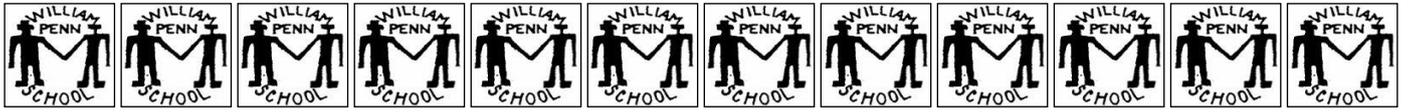
The school disco organised by the new PTA before Christmas was a great success, with DJ80 providing a great selection of party tunes (I never imagined Rick Astley and Sweet Caroline would ever be so popular with primary school children). Thank you to all the parents and staff who got involved with the organisation. I know that the PTA are planning a lot more fun events in 2024 and would love more volunteers to get involved.

The PTA AGM is planned for 29th January at 3.30pm so please come along, join the fun and make William Penn an even better school for your children! There will be a film shown at school at this time and children will be supervised if you need help with childcare to attend.

Governing Body

We recently welcomed another 2 members to the William Penn Governing Body, Mr Phillips has joined us as Staff Governor, and Araminta (Minty) Barlow has joined us as our LA governor.





Graeme Middleton who has been a governor for 4 years, will soon be stepping down from his role on the governing body to focus on a new business venture. Thank you to Graeme for all the work he has done in supporting the school finances and governor training.

We therefore have space on the governing body for a co-opted governor. We frequently do a governor skills audit and have identified that we would benefit from having someone with education and curriculum experience on the board. If that sounds like something you could bring to the governing body, then we would love to hear from you! Please email me on chair@williampenn.co.uk to express your interest. We have recently moved to holding our governing body meetings to the evenings, so the daytime commitment is less than it used to be. Please get in touch for a chat to find out more.

Wishing you all happiness in 2024.

Best wishes
Mike Blackman
Chair of Governors

