

West Woodburn First School – May 2015

School roll: 20 children comprising: reception, 4; Key Stage 1, 10; Key Stage 2, 6.

Staff

Executive head teacher: Mrs Goddard

Class teachers: Mrs Goodwin and Mrs Rutherford

Cook, lunchtime supervisor and caretaker: Mrs Lawson

Classroom assistants: Mr Caton and Mrs Leaver

Administrator: Mrs Bilton

Governing Body

Parent Governors: Mrs Wilson, Mr Hamilton, Mrs Trail, vacancy

Staff Governors: Mrs Goddard, Mrs Goodwin

Co-opted Governors: Revd Dr Virden, Mrs Charlton, Mr Meikle

Local Authority-appointed: Mr Goodall, FCCA

School Website: <http://420-northumberland.eschools.co.uk/website>

From the Chair of the Governing Body: Richard Virden

It is a pleasure to thank everyone for their many contributions to the success of the school during the past year. The children have enjoyed learning and made good progress. Parents have supported their children's learning, good attendance, good behaviour and a positive attitude to learning. Staff have worked tirelessly and to good effect during a year of change and challenge. Governors have made important decisions at a time of continuing financial fragility. Volunteer helpers, charitable donors and, not least, the Friends of West Woodburn First School, have helped the school in many practical ways. It is also a pleasure to note: that all pupils in Classes 1 and 2 have taken up the offer of Universal Free Meals; that there have been no reported racist incidents, major accidents or instances of bullying; that there has been a review of Fire Procedures, with support from the Fire Service.

A year ago the Governing Body agreed the 'leasing' from Bellingham First School of Mrs Wendy Goddard as Executive Head Teacher, replacing Mrs Susan Beavers after her retirement. This brought new opportunities for co-ordinated collaboration between these schools, strengthening existing collaboration within a schools 'mini-partnership,' and opportunities for staff training to enhance the quality of teaching and to measure attainment and to respond effectively to educational needs across the range of the new primary curriculum, with attention to staff development (using OFSTED criteria). Maths continues to be a priority and numeracy and literacy have been subjects of daily sessions, underpinned by additional staff training. There is evidence of improved progress for all pupils.

The school bought into the Tynedale Sports provision for 2014-2015, giving access to specialised teachers and coaches and scope for West Woodburn children to take part in more competitions. PE facilities at West Woodburn are an area of concern and the way forward has been fully explored within the Governing Body and in consultation with parents. Here, as in every area of the curriculum, it is essential for staff to work closely together to ensure that our provision is 'good' or better.

In addition to the staff training mentioned above, further staff training has included child-protection, paediatric first aid and food hygiene.

Training of governors has included an ongoing series of short sessions on OFSTED criteria before meetings of the governing body. Some governors have also taken part in longer facilitated workshop discussions and courses on the OFSTED inspection process, on data evaluation, on 'what makes an effective governing body,' on safeguarding and on safer recruitment.

Welcome scope within the 2014-2015 budget has been found for an increase, during this year, in teaching support, including support for children with additional needs, for working with Reception children and for development of the outdoor area. The welcome introduction of school chickens is being supported by other fund-raising.

There have been several notable changes in personnel during the year. Mrs Elliott, caretaker for more than 22 years, retired. Mrs Stevens, who took up another teaching post, was replaced by Mrs Rutherford. Mrs McGurran, apprentice classroom assistant, successfully completed her apprenticeship and moved to a new post elsewhere, being replaced by Mrs Leaver. Mrs Cowell, administrator, resigned and was replaced by Mrs Bilton. Governors who retired or resigned during the year were Mrs Carroll, Mrs Cross, Mrs Scott (retiring as Vice-Chair, replaced by Mr Hamilton) and Mrs McLaughlan, parent governor. We are very grateful for all those who have left us for their contributions to the well-being of the school.