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Headteacher Mr Kevin Bowskill BA (QTS)

## **GOVERNORS' NEWSLETTER TO PARENTS SUMMER TERM 2019**

**Since our last letter we are pleased to be able to share some of the positive work the Teaching Team and the Governing Board have achieved over the past few months. Overstone School plays a crucial role in our local community and we are committed to supporting our school and children through their education.**

### **Teaching and Learning**

In our previous letter, we highlighted the challenge in recruiting for staff mid-way through an academic year. We have continued to strive to appoint new members of the team and whilst we have struggled to find full-time staff members for this year, we are delighted to have made an offer to a Deputy Head, with the intention to join in September. The interview process was completed by the Head Teacher, members of the Governing Board and supported by the Head Teacher of Cottesloe, whom we would like to thank for giving up his time to help our School.

The role for the Deputy Head will be split between teaching and other leadership duties. The new appointment brings many great qualities to Overstone School and we look forward to working with them.

The school also interviewed an experienced teacher, who demonstrated their teaching skills in an observed lesson given to Year Group 5. It is planned for this teacher to commence working at Overstone during the summer term and therefore they will be fully integrated into the school ready for the next academic year.

We also have several other prospective candidates visiting the school in the next few days and so further interviews are expected in the near future. You will be informed of them as soon as possible.

Recruitment remains a top priority for the Head Teacher and the Governing Board.

### **Nursery, Breakfast Club and After School Club**

The Nursery situated on the school site is run by a separate company, Ashbourne Day Nurseries, and they also provide a breakfast club and an after school club. We would like to highlight the recent work we have been undertaking with them and their team to strengthen the relationship between the organisations, in the hope of providing a better experience for our children. We have started to consider plans to reorganise the rooms where these clubs operate and Ashbourne has indicated that they will invest in new equipment and facilities, which will hopefully give a wider choice of activities and make the club more fun for the children. We would also like to incorporate some quieter areas, which may suit children who want to do some homework or simply read a book.

### **Children's behaviour and parental survey**

We are well aware of the challenges that the school staff has to face with regard to behavioural problems and how to deal with them and it remains a priority to support everyone involved. The recent survey results have been collated and all will be taken into account. There is obviously disquiet amongst some parents about the consistency of implementation of the Yellow/Red card system and a few people have mentioned bullying. As a governing board, we will be reviewing the data and looking at the behavioural policies the school has in place, to help bring improvements following parental and staff feedback.



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## **PTA**

The Governors would like to thank all the members of the PTA who tirelessly give up their time to help organise events and fundraising. The recent Discos and “Muffins with Mum” were once again judged to be a huge success and the ice cream sales will no doubt be very popular, so well done and thank you to all involved. The funds raised by the PTA are invaluable to help the school improve facilities and help give the children experiences that otherwise we could not offer within the tight financial budget constraints.

## **Governor recruitment**

Following the recent survey, there has been a question raised about how new Governors are appointed. The Board has two parent Governors and, at this time, both positions are filled. The more recent appointments have been voted on by the Governing Board due to their qualifications, professions or experience, though we should stress that no specific skill or particular experience is a necessity. We regularly audit the skill-set on the Board and as such, have a requirement now for a Communications and Digital Marketing Governor. All our Governors are volunteers, mainly parents of children attending Overstone and give up their time to help support the School, Teaching staff and the Community. We would like to encourage anyone that has an interest in becoming a Governor to either speak directly to one of the current Board members or inform the school of their interest.

Members of the Governing Board may be contacted via the school office or school e-mail address [governors@overstone-wing.org](mailto:governors@overstone-wing.org).

## **Final note**

As a Board we are committed to helping the school, pupils and parents through what has been a challenging year. We appreciate all the support the Teachers, Teachings Assistants and the wider School team have given the children through this time and we must congratulate the wonderful successes the school and its pupils have seen recently. The Board are working closely with the school by looking at culture, leadership and team building, which will bring further opportunity for all staff members to contribute to the development and strengthening of the school.

As always, we would like to thank all parents, carers, staff and volunteers, who contribute their time and energy, to ensuring the children of Overstone school are safe, supported and nurtured.

The Governors

May 2019