St. Michael's Woolmer Green C of E Primary School
"Shine as Lights In the World"
London Road, Woolmer Green, Herts, SG3 6JP
Tel: 01438 813267 Email: admin@woolmergreen.herts.sch.uk
Headteacher – Mrs Jan Martin

Dear Parents and Carers

We are a good way through the school year and, at long last, the rain has stopped and the sun is shining!

We would like to thank you for completing the school questionnaire recently. Your views are vital in supporting both the Governing Body and the staff to understand what is good at the school and, importantly, what more we can do to improve things for children and parents.

We noted from your responses in the questionnaire, related to Governance, that some of you were unsure about the role of governors. Governors are regular visitors to the school, indeed many of you will have seen us at the recent pupil progress meetings, but there is so much more to our role. We would like to take this opportunity to explain the role of the school's Governing Body and how we support the life and work of the school.

School governors are volunteers who work together to help shape the strategic direction of the school. Our role is not to manage the day to day running of the school, that is the responsibility of the Headteacher and staff, but to provide support, oversight and where necessary to challenge to ensure the very best outcomes for all pupils.

As governors, we focus on three key areas:

- Setting the school's vision and strategic priorities - We work with Mrs Martin and her leadership team to agree the long term goals for the school and to ensure that these reflect the needs of our pupils and community.
- Monitoring educational performance and wellbeing - We review progress data, safeguarding arrangements, attendance, and the overall quality of education. Our aim is to make sure every child has the opportunity to thrive.
- Overseeing the school's financial performance - We ensure that the school's budget is used effectively and responsibly, so that resources directly support teaching, learning, and the wider school environment.

We come from a range of backgrounds—parents, staff, and members of the wider community—and we bring different skills and perspectives to the table. What unites us is a shared commitment to helping the school provide a safe, nurturing, and ambitious environment for all the children.

This year we have welcomed two new governors to the Governing Body: Lizzie Gurr, who has two children at the school and brings fresh ideas and viewpoints, and Rachel Stringer,

who has returned for a second time to the governorship at the school and brings a wealth of experience and expertise to the role. You can find lots out lots more about the governors, including a full list of the Governing Body by visiting our page on the school website (https://www.woolmergreen.herts.sch.uk/governors).

Governors and staff believe that every family should feel informed, listened to, and involved in the life of our school. With this in mind, Air and Share (the Parent Forum) was introduced recently to provide a positive and constructive space where parents and carers can share their views, ask questions, and discuss aspects of school life that matter to you. It is not a decision making body, but it plays an important role in helping governors and school leaders understand the experiences and perspectives of our families. We know that it can however be difficult to find the time to come into school during the day so would like to find a new way for you to bring your voice to the forum. We are considering introducing an Air and Share Rep for each class. This would be entirely separate from The Friends Rep.

Mrs Martin has written to you explaining the importance of good attendance at school. The governors would like to add to this by highlighting that good attendance sits at the heart of every child's success at school. We know that life is busy, children get ill, and unexpected events happen. Even so, regular attendance makes a remarkable difference to a child's learning, confidence, and long-term progress.

When children attend school consistently, they

- build strong foundations in reading, writing, and maths
- develop friendships and social skills
- feel part of the school community
- gain confidence through routine and participation
- avoid gaps in learning that can be difficult to catch up on

Ofsted place strong emphasis on us as a school to promote good attendance and, increasingly, to challenge families of children who have poor attendance. There is good reason for this; even a small number of missed days can mean children miss out on vital learning. We want every child to have the best possible chance to thrive, and attendance plays a crucial role in that.

We also want to reassure you that the school are here to help. If you are experiencing challenges that make regular attendance difficult, whether practical, medical, or emotional, please speak to Mrs Martin. The whole team at St Michael's are keen to help to find solutions and ensure your child feels supported and ready to learn each day.

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Finally, you will be aware how tight budgets are in schools. Mrs Martin has written concerning voluntary contributions and the very real difference that these make to the school. We would like to echo her request that, where possible, you contribute to trips and events so that we can continue to offer these enriching opportunities.

If you have questions about anything in this letter, or if you are interested in getting involved in the future, please get in touch by email chair@woolmergreen.herts.sch.uk.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. On behalf of The Governing Body, I would like to wish children, parents, carers and all staff a restful Spring break and, if you are celebrating, a very Happy Easter.

Best Wishes,

Debbie May
Chair of Governors.