



**Whitehead**  
Primary School  
& Nursery Unit

**'LEARNING AND GROWING TOGETHER'**

27 March 2024

Dear Parent

Just a reminder regarding the PTA Easter Scavenger Hunt. Tomorrow children should come to school in non-uniform. Given the outside weather conditions, we have decided to do the Scavenger Hunt inside school. Don't forget to pay your £2 on School Money. School finishes tomorrow at 12.00 pm (Y1-4) and 12.05 pm (Y5-7). There will be no Breakfast Club or School dinners tomorrow. Breakfast Club and School Dinners will resume on Friday, 12 April 2024.

I am absolutely delighted that there have been four nominations for Parent Representatives to the Board of Governors. I have included below some information relating to each of the nominees. In order to decide which of the two nominees will take up post on the Board of Governors, there will be a parents' meeting on **Thursday, 18 April 2024 at 7.00 pm.** This is a change from the originally suggested date of Thursday, 25 April 2024.

Any parent who has children currently attending the school is entitled to attend the meeting and to cast their vote. It would be wonderful to see as many parents as possible attending this meeting, particularly as an encouragement to each of the nominees. The meeting will be very brief. I will outline the voting process and those in attendance will be given time to cast their vote. The votes will then be counted and I hope to inform all parents of the outcome of the vote on Friday, 19 April 2024.

Kind regards.

**J LOUGHINS**  
Principal

## Kathryn Anderson



I am deeply committed to contributing to the continued success and development of Whitehead Primary School, a place that holds a special significance in my life. My journey with the school, first as a pupil and now as a parent of two children who are currently attending (in P2 and P4) has given me a unique perspective on its evolution and the role it plays in our community. This personal connection is further strengthened by my mother's teaching career at the school, embedding in me a strong connection to the school.

Professionally I am the Northern Irish Director for BookTrust, the UK's largest reading charity. This role has not only fuelled my passion for literacy, but has also equipped me with a comprehensive skill set in managing complex, cross-organisational projects. My efforts to promote reading among children are driven by the conviction that literacy is a cornerstone of educational achievement and personal growth.

In this capacity, I have gained experience in stakeholder engagement, strategic planning and project management. These skills are directly transferable to the role of parent governor, where I will aim to support the school in navigating its strategic direction and make informed decisions that align with statutory guidelines and the best interests of the pupils.

For the past two years I have also served as the Chair of the PTA in the school, leading the group in running a range of events for the children throughout the school year. This has been a very rewarding experience, not only in providing fun and memorable moments for the pupils but also raising vital funds to support the school.

I am eager to bring my personal dedication and professional experience to the Board of Governors, working collaboratively to ensure that WPS can continue to provide a nurturing, high quality education experience.

## Laura Evans



As a business professional with experience in Risk Management and a degree in Organisational Improvement, I feel that I could bring value to the Board at WPS to provide strategic direction, contributing ideas to help the school continue improve and thrive.

However, more importantly as a parent of children in Whitehead Primary for the last ten years plus, and to date, I recognise the vital role that our school plays in our community and for our children. I fully support the school ethos and values and would strive to bring a parental perspective to the issues presented in a confidential manner. I would be honoured to be able to contribute to the future strategies and plans for the school and be a support in any way that I can, giving back to the school that has provided a safe and fun learning environment for my children and has presented so many excellent opportunities they otherwise would not have had.

I would commit to:

- Learn all I can about the school to contribute for optimum progression.
- Support and challenge the principle and his team.
- Embrace strategies for betterment to positively enhance the children's lives.
- Be accountable for decisions made in support of the school.

I would aim to provide, in partnership with the board and parents, a safe, secure and stimulating learning environment where children are inspired to achieve their full potential and pursue individual excellence. Together promoting our 'SHINE' core values within strategic direction & policies, we have an amazing opportunity to develop personal growth for all the pupils, engaging them in effective learning, positive self-esteem, self-confidence and self-discipline to best equip them for the future.

As John F Kennedy stated,

*'Children are the world's most valuable resource and its best hope for the future!'*

## Laura McVeigh



As a professional educator with fifteen years experience in the post-primary education sector, and seven years background volunteering with children, I am keen to offer my diverse skills to WPS's Board of Governors, with the goal of contributing to the continued development of the school community.

I am a teacher of Science at primary and secondary level. As well as delivering excellent teaching, I support a positive school culture, making sure that every child feels valued and inspired to achieve their potential. I actively engage in pastoral care, such that children frequently seek me out to help address their problems. I always keep my pupils at the centre of everything I do. I have aided the development of my own school, by running the Eco-school programme and STEM club for pupils in key stages 2-5. I have organised scientific, environmental and engineering workshops in collaboration with external agencies, aimed at challenging our pupils to develop their thinking skills and personal capabilities.

I have been a Cub Scouts leader at Islandmagee Scouts for seven years, which has provided me with invaluable experience in mentoring and guiding young individuals from diverse backgrounds. This role has reinforced my commitment to the well-being and development of children, further enhancing my skills in communication, teamwork, and leadership. I have been involved in organising numerous camps and events for our Cubs, where the children can have fun but also learn valuable skills for life.

Finally, I feel a strong personal connection to WPS, as a parent of two children attending the school. My children have received so much from WPS, as they have grown and developed within a caring, supportive school environment. This inspires me to want to pay back to the school what I can by contributing to the important work of the Board of Governors.

## Pamela Patterson



First and foremost, I am a mum of two children, so I am very aware of all the challenges this brings in just balancing everyday life. My own children are currently in year four and year two. Ever since my eldest child started in the nursery unit five years ago, I have always tried to get involved as much as possible, from a parent helper on school trips to just helping whenever I could.

As a day job I am a Registered Veterinary Nurse for just over 25 years. I try to be caring, compassionate and empathetic. I have good decision-making skills, in sometimes highly stressful and time sensitive situations. I have led teams, implemented many working practices and safe operational procedures across a variety of tasks.

Since September 2022 I have been vice-secretary of our PTA. I have really enjoyed getting involved in organising activities that are fun for the children, but also raising funds for the school. It's this involvement that has also given me the further interest in being involved in Board of Governors.

I currently also volunteer in a local scout group as a cub leader. This is not only great fun but has given me experience in a range of different tasks, from co-ordinated weekly badge work activities to overnight camping trips. These all involve rigorous planning, permit completions and risk assessments. I hope all of these skills could transfer to the parent representative role.

The main reason for putting myself forward as a parent representative is because I personally feel it's important that the role is filled by exactly that, a normal parent. I would try to ensure the perspective and input from normal everyday parents is well represented in the decisions that are being made, as these choices directly affect and impact our children. On a personal note, I know I may not have a lot of previous experience on boards or councils, but I know I am hard working, compassionate and committed to tasks I take on. I would always strive to represent parent opinions and perspective to the best of my ability.