



*We are an inspiring learning community with high expectations, where all feel safe and happy and everybody has the opportunity to unlock and realise their potential*

Dear Families,

As we draw to the end of our first few days back in school with more children able to attend, I want to say a huge "Thank You" and acknowledge the debt of gratitude that I feel towards you all for helping and supporting us to do our job over this period of lockdown!

Thank you all for the tremendous work you have been doing at home with your children over the past weeks. For those children who are not yet able to return to school, this effort remains as vital now as it was as the very beginning of lockdown. Please do carry on with the support you have been offering your children with their home-learning routines. Now more than ever, is the time for us to pull together to make sure that the children get what they deserve - we are determined to minimise any educational deficit that might result from COVID-19. My thanks go to the team of staff who continue to develop the home learning diet for children to access every day.

For those children who returned to school this week, I have just one word: WOW! They have absolutely blown me away with their enthusiasm, resilience, amazing attitudes and maturity in dealing with both lockdown and the 'new normal' at school. I cannot begin to tell you how deeply impressed I am with them all, from the very youngest in Nursery to those in Year 6. Don't forget, if you have a child in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 or Year 6, school is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and we will be delighted to welcome your child back when you feel ready to send them in to school. Likewise, if your child is not in one of these year groups but you are a key worker or believe that you would benefit from some additional support, please do contact the admin team to investigate when your child will be able to start back at school.

It has been amazing to have more children back in school but this was only possible because of the determination and dedication of our teachers and support staff who have been prepared to engage in really purposeful discussions about how we do this as safely as possible for all concerned. My thanks go to our fantastic on-site team who are absolutely determined to make the most of the last few weeks of the academic year, helping the children get used to the new systems and routines, supporting them with their learning and facilitating fun and games during free time.

Thank you as well for your patience during this week. Unsurprisingly, with the complexities of the situation, there have been some small hiccups and confusions which we have been able to iron out successfully. Do please continue to stick to the routines and procedures for dropping off, picking up and sending in online learning.

Thank you to the office team who have kept things running, uploaded the online learning diet and helped me to communicate with you all. They remain on hand to answer any questions and provide support where needed. Mel and Alana now face the monumental task of completing the incredibly detailed and complex attendance tracker that is required by central government! Our site team have worked incredibly hard to prepare the site for more children to return and have been doing a brilliant job of ensuring that space is clean and hygienic throughout the school day. We owe them our thanks.

Finally, my thanks go to the school leadership team, both staff and governors, who have offered tremendous support, advice and guidance throughout an exceptional period.

I wish you all a terrific weekend (even if the weather forecast doesn't look quite so promising)

Miss Stockley

## **A note from Debra Kane, Chair of the School's Governing Body**

### **The reopening - a big thank you to Miss Stockley and team**

Following the wider school reopening this week, as Chair of the governing body I wanted to say a huge thanks to Miss Stockley and her team for their hard work and commitment during what is a very challenging time. This will also have been a difficult time for many of you as parents and carers. I know the school community has come together to support the school and one another - the William Hogarth's strong community spirit has shone through, and that has been great to see.

I will say a bit more about what we as governors do shortly. Over the last few weeks, however, our priority has been to review and test the school's plan for the wider reopening. The safety of children, staff and the wider community has been key throughout. We are confident that the school has followed the Government and Local Authority guidance to support a safe return. We are in close contact with Miss Stockley and will be keeping matters under review over the coming weeks, again with safety front and centre.

Everything we have seen has demonstrated the staff's strong commitment to achieving the best outcomes possible for all children - whether in school or at home. I am sure that as parents and carers you will appreciate the huge effort the school team has put in. Firstly to put in place and deliver remote learning (while remaining open for children of key workers), and more recently on the wider reopening.

It has been an exceptional effort from the staff and we are extremely grateful.

### **The governing body and what we do**

Many of you may not be familiar with the school's governors or what we do - something we are very much hoping to change this year.

So who are we? Along with Miss Stockley, there are six governors – each with different skills and interests. There's a governor to represent the Local Authority (which funds the school), governors to represent the parents and a governor to represent the school's staff. Please do take a look at who we are and our backgrounds on the school website: <https://www.williamhogarthschool.co.uk/our-school/governors/governors>

And what do we do? The governors' job is to set the school's strategic direction, and to check the school is spending its money well and providing a high quality education for all children. We don't run the school day to day.

### **Governing body - future ways of working**

We have recently been reviewing how we work as a governing body and how we can be more effective. I am pleased to be able to share with you the new 'Governing Body Framework' we have developed: [GB single structure.docx](#) We strongly believe that this new framework will improve the way we serve the school and its children in the coming years. Please do take a look - you will see that we want to use school 'Governor Days' to engage with parents and carers, children and staff. We will be sharing more on this in the coming months.

As a governing body, we are proud of the school and its ability to tackle the current challenges as a community. At the moment, it is unclear when we will all be able to attend on site. However, I very much hope to meet many of you at some point in the next academic year as we seek to ensure the school goes from strength to strength!

Kind regards

**Debra Kane, Chair of Governors**