While it probably feels a long time since the start of term, but on behalf of the Governors of the Wellington and Marlborough partnership I would like to welcome you all back after the summer break, especially new families and members of staff.

The Governors of Wellington have always held an additional ‘Business’ meeting early in the autumn term, to appoint the Chair, Vice Chair, confirm committee membership and other governor responsibilities. This principle was introduced at Marlborough fees up our time to focus on school improvement going forward.

It was great to hear from Mr England during these meetings how well the whole community has settled into the academic year. Having been a School governor for almost eighteen years, one of the most important things I have learned over that time, is how dynamic schools are, continually evolving to meet the needs of our children and the whole community.

As Governors, we continually look ahead with many ‘what if’s’ around pupil numbers, community need, funding and staff development to ensure we have as much flexibility as we can to adapt to change.

Heraclitus a Greek Philosopher (544-483 BC) said “There is nothing permanent except change”

We are particularly proud of our strategic succession planning. Since Wellington opened we have seen three key members of our senior leadership team leave to take up their first headships and other members of the team move on. This could be a challenge in some schools, but our investment in both staff development and devolved leadership means we can adapt to change without impacting on the outcomes for our community.

I believe that one of our great strengths as a partnership is how we maintain business as usual through change.

I wish you all success in this nearly new academic year.

Neil Bridger, Chair of Governors

Meet the Governors

Steve Delves

I’ve discovered over the years that cooking together with others is so helpful in building great relationships. You learn to work together, make mistakes together and enjoy the products of your labours. Hi, my name is Steve and I’m the Curriculum Development Governor at the school and have been part of the Governors team for just over a year now. I’m also the Pastor of Jubilee Church that meets in the school every Sunday morning. As a church we have been meeting for nearly three years and have loved being part of the wider school community. You may have spotted me cooking the BBQ (see the picture overleaf) with some of my friends from the church at the School Summer Fair.
I’m married to Amber who I met on a blind date and proposed to after 6 weeks! To my joy and relief, she said yes and we have been happily married for nearly 24 years. We have three teenage kids, the oldest has just started university and her younger twin brother and sister are at 6th form college. My background is in Youth Work and I have worked professionally in this field for most of my working life. I still manage to squeeze in a bit as part of my role as a Pastor. As part of my job I have regularly worked in schools and have a real heart to support not only the ongoing curriculum development but also the emotional welfare side of school life.

I’m delighted to be part of such a highly motivated Governing body who genuinely care for the school and its community. One of my biggest motivations is hope. Over the last few years as part of the school community as both Pastor and Governor I have had the privilege of watching stories of hope unfold. Wellington School is a story of hope; its culture turned around by hard work from staff, students and its surrounding community. It has been my experience that hope is infectious and hope will have an impact wider that we imagine. At least that is my prayer for us.

You will know that Wellington has seen much growth and development over the years and the proof of this is reflected in our Ofsted outcome from November 2018, our standards across the school, which remain above those found nationally and in Hampshire and, the reputation and popularity of the school. There’s a real pride in evaluating the strengths of the school and in sitting here reflecting on the outcomes and the fact that we currently have 427 children on roll, each year group full and many with waiting lists.

Among our successes and strengths is the partnership that Wellington has with Marlborough Infant School, a partnership that has been running and growing for well over 2 years now. The partnership of Wellington and Marlborough has allowed both schools to remain their individual identities, yet work effectively together to share expertise, resources, economy of scale in budgeting. In a climate of change, the strongest of schools are outward looking, collaborate and work with other schools and join forces to enable the most effective school improvement and opportunities for children and communities.

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It has been a real privilege to see how both schools have developed within the partnership, staff working across the schools and sharing training and development, under the same systems, leadership structure and curriculum, pupils sharing school visits and events and families with children across the two schools.

As the governing bodies across both schools evaluate their performance and school improvement priorities, they hold skills and knowledge that both schools are in different developmental places in some areas and share the same
developmental priorities in other areas of provision.

The Wellington school priorities for this academic year are outlined below:

• Improve the capacity of the overall leadership of the school by developing middle leadership roles further across the curriculum, working with the Aldershot Pyramid of schools on a specific focus on Science and Music (Marlborough and Wellington)

• Improve reading outcomes at the end of Year 6, with a particular focus on children who have English as an Additional Language and how the teaching of guided reading from Years 2 to 6 (beyond phonics and decoding) impacts on this.

• Ensure that pupils who achieve beyond the expected standards in reading, writing and mathematics at the end of Year 2, make progress across Key Stage 2 to continue to reach high standards (Ofsted 2018)

Both schools have a focus on continuing to improve reading and, at Wellington, this focus is specifically on improving reading outcomes further for our children who have English as an Additional Language (EAL). We have had 3 of our INSET days, both schools coming together for training and development. Two of these INSET days being focussed around the development of reading across both schools.

Whilst being in a strong position across the Wellington and Marlborough partnership, we are never complacent and we are sure that the year ahead will present many challenges along with the many successes that we plan for and work towards. One of the things that I absolutely love about the job that I do is that, as challenging as it may be, I never know what is going to ‘come through the doors’ on any given day and no 2 days are the same. There’s never a dull moment!

Thank you for your ongoing support and I look forward to continuing to work with you all over the year.

How do I contact a Governor?

All Governors are contactable through the school office. You can either leave a message for them, or e-mail the school, who will pass it on to the relevant Governor or Governors.

You can see who the Governors are on the school website.
This year Wellington had the privilege of being featured in The Parliamentary Review as a best practice representative. You can see an extract below and you can read the full article at: www.theparliamentaryreview.co.uk/editions/2019/primary-education/primary-education-south-of-england

Wellington Community Primary School

Formed from the amalgamation of two underperforming schools, Wellington Community Primary School has gone from strength to strength and was judged by Ofsted last year as “outstanding” in all areas. A key aspect of this improvement has been to involve the community directly, and the school is now open seven days a week, 52 weeks a year, and has established allotment areas and football pitches for use by the local community. They have recently begun working with another local school, Marlborough Infant School, and aim to improve educational standards through communal work. Headteacher David England explains.

Wellington Community Primary School was formed in January 2013 through the amalgamation of two underperforming schools: an infant and a junior school that were situated half a mile apart. Wellington is now a two-form entry school with 420 pupils on roll and is regularly oversubscribed. I was appointed interim headteacher of the former junior school in January 2012 at a time when the school was judged by Ofsted as “inadequate”. We were able to improve this rating to “satisfactory” within a year before closing to reopen as the new school. Prior to this, I worked as deputy headteacher at a one-form entry school in Gosport. At the time I joined this school, it was judged as “inadequate” and before I left, we were able to improve this to “good” with “outstanding” features.

The decision to combine the two schools was met with a mix of resistance and support: the infant school raised concerns but the staff and community of the junior school supported the decision. Neither of the schools had ever been judged