

## Parish of Westoning Annual Meeting 2023

### Westoning Lower School

Report prepared by Brian Valentine, chair of the Local Governing Board since 2<sup>nd</sup> May.

While the school provides childcare for 3 year olds in a school setting, its pupils range from ages 4 to 9. The school is judged as good by Ofsted.

The school's strap line is "Where learning starts". Our goal is to teach pupils how to learn so they have the grounding to reach their full potential. For instance in the last week year 4 have been away learning to canoe, abseil and go zip lining; new skills for most. Year 3 have been learning the obscure skills of cricket.

Following the epidemic primary schools nationally are one and a half months behind where they would normally be. WLS won't be much different. Staff and governors are doing all they can to close this gap. We are helped by having an energetic Parent Teachers Association.

The school has a capacity for 166 pupils but currently has a roll of 106 pupils. This provides for the benefits of small classes but reduces financial resources.

In 2020 WLS joined the Pyramid Academy Trust. This is a Multi Academy Trust linking Harlington Upper School with its feeder schools. This was a bad time to attempt integration, but things are now settled. The trust aims to provide seamless education between ages 4 to 19. This aids the pupils in that the curriculum can be co-ordinated so that children from all schools are at the same level at transition, avoiding a period at new schools where classes are brought to a uniform level. It is a benefit to staff and governors that there is centralised specialist support on hand. As Bedfordshire slowly moves from a 3 tier to 2 tier school structure, a trust like ours is best placed to make the change without disrupting children's education.

The addition of new building in the village is likely to have a profound affect on the school. It is a huge opportunity if we do not get overwhelmed.