

Westacre Infant School

Finchfield Hill, Finchfield, Wolverhampton, WV3 9EP

Headteacher: Mr A Edmunds

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Monday 11th November 2024

Dear Parents

Parent Governor Election

I wrote to you on 7th October 2024 to invite nominations for the **2 x vacancies** we have on our governing body for **parent governors**.

I am delighted to say that there has been a good response and there are **FOUR** candidates for the **TWO** vacancies. This means we must now hold a ballot.

Attached to this letter (pages 2 and 3) are a copy of the personal statements from the candidates who are:

Luke Darbey

Simranjit Dulku

Mohan Mudigonda

Timothy Parry

We are sending home today a physical ballot paper with the names of the candidates (in alphabetical order).

You may vote for up to **TWO** candidate(s). Each parent can only submit one ballot paper, regardless of the number of pupils you have attending the school. As indicated on the ballot paper you should vote by marking an 'X' alongside the names of the parents you support.

Once you have marked the ballot paper you should fold the sheet and return it to the school office by **Monday 18th November 2024**.

The election will be decided by a simple majority of votes cast. In the event of a tie, lots will be drawn.

When the election has been completed, I will let you know the outcome. If in the meantime you have any queries, please let me know.

Thank you for taking the time and trouble to support this election.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Edmunds', with a horizontal line underneath.

Mr A Edmunds

Headteacher

Candidate Statement: Luke Darbey

I bring over 16 years experience working with young people as the Community Centre Manager of Smethwick Youth and Community Centre. I've led youth clubs, sports sessions, homework clubs, and mentoring programs, while also managing adult education classes and overseeing GNG Nursery for over a decade. Additionally, I hold a Business and Management degree from Aston University, which has equipped me with strong leadership and strategic planning skills.

As a registered foster carer since 2018, I have supported numerous minors through their adolescent years, giving me a unique insight into the challenges children face.

I also run a business that offers Holiday Clubs and tuition, further deepening my experience in youth engagement. My past role as a governor at Khalsa Academy included overseeing the Single Central Record and supporting an Ofsted inspection, demonstrating my ability to contribute effectively in governance.

I am committed to ongoing professional development and am ready to undertake any training necessary to enhance my skills as a governor. I am eager to bring my expertise in safeguarding, community engagement, and strategic planning to support Westacre Infant School, ensuring its continued success and development.

Candidate Statement: Simranjit Dulku

I am passionate about helping to deliver a brighter future for our next generation.

My daughter has just joined Westacre School and I have seen a wonderful change in her already thanks to the way her educational journey is being mapped out. She is already a bright, ambitious girl, so to be a part of the school's team that would drive hers and her peers' development would be great honour. I spend time with her as well as my niece and nephew assisting in their at-home learning and enjoy this thoroughly. I would thrive off being involved in actively leading the way for our future minds.

I have worked in HR leadership for the last 13 years which spans from a research and development role to my current role as a HR Officer. I have experience in dealing with employment law, coaching and mentoring. I am one of the contact points for GDPR within my role, and I am a trained menopause champion committed to supporting inclusion on a daily basis. I work to ensure that processes are implemented and followed, and I lead the development of my colleagues by delivering training programmes. I manage and advise on a diverse and complex caseload; I play an active role in motivating performance at work, and I feel that is an extension of my personality, where I am committed to excellence but well versed in tailoring learning to the needs of the groups in question.

I come from a strong educational background and have an ambitious and rewarding career. I believe being a parent governor would not only aid my personal and professional development, gaining skills and tools to learn from, but it would also assist me in being a strong role model for my daughter and showing her that working hard is about so much more than us – it's about making the future brighter for everyone around us. If I was a parent governor, I would be committed to taking an active interest in the childrens' educational needs and driving their development, supporting the school in all initiatives and working as a community driven team with the governing body to represent our school. I am able to view situations from an objective point of view in order to gain different perspectives. I operate in a respectful manner, and I am not shy about putting my point across to discuss but ultimately am committed to working collaboratively for the greater good. I have a great support network within our family and friends unit and so I can commit to availability for governor duties and supporting the school in any initiatives we would be working on, whether they be fundraising, planning trips and activities, or volunteering projects for instance. As a parent to a Westacre pupil I obviously have a vested interest, however I have a number of friends whose children attend our school. Whilst to be a part of their future would be so fulfilling, I would welcome the opportunity to give back to the community within which I reside. I am grateful that you have taken the time to consider my application.

Candidate Statement: Mohan Mudigonda

- Knowledge of safeguarding via my current role as GP Practice Manager.
- Through my role as a Practice Manager, I have 13 years of experience in leading a team – our practice has the highest rating in our local area and we achieved a rating of 'Good' in our last practice inspection.
- I have completed a doctorate in law and am therefore highly skilled at analysing information and data.
- Through my role as Practice Manager, I have developed a high level of empathy and am able to consider the needs of the wider community.
- I am experienced in the implementation of new initiatives through my role as a Practice Manager. These have included implementation of the Covid vaccine programme and, more recently, implementation of the RSV vaccination programme.
- I am one of three Practice Manager mentors in the Black Country area and have provided guidance to new managers upon commencement of their role.
- Both my children have attended Westacre. My daughter attended between 2016 and 2019; my son is currently attending the school in Year 1. My son is under the SEN team at the school and has absolutely thrived since joining. I would dearly love the opportunity to give something back to the school that has done so much for both my children.

Candidate Statement: Timothy Parry

My three year old son has recently joined the nursery. I am delighted to apply for a role in supporting the continuous improvement of educational outcomes for young people at Westacre and the wider community.

I am a chartered accountant with 15 years of experience, having started my career in audit and assurance before transitioning into various financial and commercial roles within my current multinational company.

In addition to my accounting qualifications, I have developed a number of high level professional skills through being part of and managing teams in the UK business as well as managing team members across Europe.

As part of my ongoing membership of the ICAEW I am required to complete annual Continued Professional Development which covers a variety of wider subject areas such as ethics, corporate governance, communication and sustainability.

I feel that my professional experience and varied skillset equips me with a broad spectrum of capability that can be used to support the ongoing strategic vision and ethos of the school, and contribute to robust and accountable governance.

Living in Finchfield I feel a wider responsibility in playing an active role in the community and relish the opportunity to help shape the school and surrounding area for the future benefit of our young people.

My wife is the Director of Central Youth Theatre, a Wolverhampton based charity which uses theatre to expand the opportunities for young people in the community and provide them with the skills needed to excel in their careers. I am proud to play a volunteering role in supporting the charity to achieve its goals through logistical support and active fundraising.

I understand and appreciate the importance of the role of a parent governor. I confirm I am able and willing to commit myself in supporting the school to build on its current successes, and to undertake all required training to develop further skills required to be an effective governor.