

Rumboldswyke Church of England Infants' School

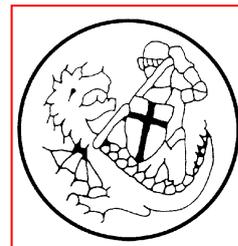
Governors' Newsletter

4th July 2018

'Love life, love learning'

Office@rumboldswyke.w-sussex.sch.uk 01243 782368

Headteacher Mrs F Sayce



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the first of a series of termly updates on governor matters. In the newsletters we aim to keep you informed on the focus of the work of the governing body throughout each term.

Who are the Governors of Rumboldswyke School and what do we do?

The governors are a maximum group of 12 volunteers representing the parents, school staff, St. George's church and the wider community. We meet regularly as a whole group, but we also meet as three sub committees: Finance & Resources; Buildings, Health and Safety; and Curriculum and Standards committees, best utilising the individual skills, interests and life experiences of each Governor. This year we have welcomed Katharine Neighbour who has been elected as Parent Governor for a four-year term.

One of our main objectives is to hold the school to account on behalf of all stakeholders and to act as a 'critical friend' to the head-teacher and the senior leadership team, often asking challenging questions of the staff at our regular meetings. Although we are all unpaid volunteers, we are all passionate in our desire to help the leadership team and the staff to continue to offer the pupils at Rumboldswyke the best possible start to their education. We still strongly believe that 'every child matters'.

What has your Finance and Resource committee been up to this year?



With the on-going issue of school funding for the whole of West Sussex being high on the agenda this year, you can imagine that it has been a very difficult time. However, working closely with the senior leadership team at the school, in particular Mrs Sayce and Mrs Flint, we have managed to make our budget allocation work to the best advantage for our pupils during this last financial year. Funding for West Sussex schools is going to remain tight and, whilst it still remains unclear what the long term future funding is likely to be for Rumboldswyke, the next academic year is looking more positive following the restructuring of the staffing at our school.

We have a strong, capable and dedicated team of staff at our school and we will continue to endeavour to ensure that they have the suitable resources to meet the needs of our pupils and the expectations of our parents and other stakeholders. - David Barty - Co-opted Governor

What has your curriculum and standards committee been up to this year?

The Governors have continued to monitor the school against the development plan and it has been fantastic to visit the school frequently to view the plan in action and to catch up with the teaching staff on progress made. The school is making good headway in all areas of the plan. We have monitored and evaluated data and undertaken 'learning walks' in classrooms. It is not the governors' responsibility to make judgements on teaching, but they must, through observing classroom practice, studying anonymised pupil progress records, and receiving external reports e.g. from the school's Learning and Leadership partner, ensure that the school is providing a good standard of education.

Amanda Jeffery – Parent Governor



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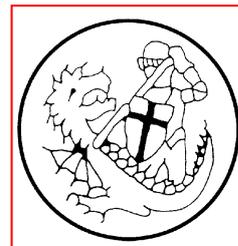
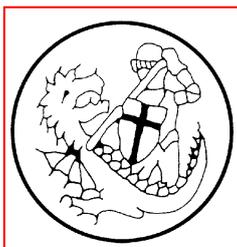
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What has your Buildings, Health and Safety committee been up to this year?

The Health Safety and Premises Committee is in place to support the running of the school. The committee looks after the back-office functions and is involved in regular reviews of Policies as well as regular inspection of the school building and land.



Working closely with the school leadership team, we make sure the school is safe for children, staff and visitors on a day to day basis, this includes amongst other tasks: security policy, Health and Safety Audits (with West Sussex County Council), data protection, fire inspections and general housekeeping as well as looking at the long-term maintenance and property plans.

The other role of the committee is to ensure the property is kept in a good state of repair as well as assist in the identification and funding of long-term property maintenance and development needs.

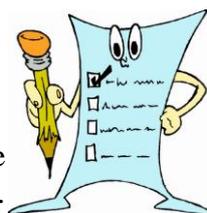
In the last few years, the committee has overseen the new flat roof and the replacement of the inefficient classroom heaters and the covered outdoor play area. We were also consulted on and involved in the installation of the new pedestrian crossing on Whyke Road. - Tom Hughes - Co-opted Governor

Parent Questionnaire

Many thanks to the 47 parents who completed the questionnaire. The governors truly value the information that you have provided from the Parent Questionnaires; we will be using it to plan future actions. The class who received the most completed questionnaires were Sea Otters and the children will get an extra playtime and £20 to spend on a resource of their choosing.

We had many responses on the same themes. Some of the strengths of the school were identified as:

- The school is small, friendly and very caring
- The office ladies, 'front of house team', are always so welcoming
- Pupils and siblings are known individually
- Children are happy coming to school and develop positive friendships
- The Headteacher knows each family individually and is very approachable
- A dedicated staff team who genuinely seem keen for your child to do well.



Some of the responses indicated that parents would like the Play and Stay sessions to be further developed, improved communication between home and school including developing the newsletter further, celebrating achievements and ensuring that parents are kept up to date with their child's progress through both formal and less formal communication including individual after school discussions or telephone conversations. The governing body will look carefully at all responses at the next meeting of the full governing body in the Autumn term and will update you following this with a fuller analysis and actions from it.

Should you wish to know more about being a school governor or have specific questions or concerns that we can help with, please do let the office know and the appropriate governor will respond to you. If you are unsure who your school governors are, detailed profiles are on our new website and we would be delighted to hear from you.

With best wishes for a sunny and warm summer holiday,
The Governors of Rumboldswyke Infant School