



Governors' Newsletter Spring Term 2014

We are over half way through the school year and I trust that those of you who are new to the school already feel part of the community here.

Our main focus this term has been the future of Downs Infants after Ms. Kruger's retirement in the summer and it promises to be a busy time ahead. Governors have met together, with Downs Junior School and with representatives from the Local Authority on a number of occasions to plan the best way forward. After these discussions, we have decided upon a structured partnership between Downs Infant and Junior Schools and whilst the schools will remain separate, our aim is for more joint working and collaboration, and the possibility of more formal arrangements in the future. In the meantime, a group of six governors have been charged with securing a first class Headteacher to take Downs Infant School forward, building on its successes to secure the best outcomes for your children.

So, what else have governors been doing since our last bulletin? Amongst other things:

- an analysis of the 2013 KS1 assessments (taken at the end of Year 2), Foundation Stage assessment (taken at the end of the Reception year) and Phonics Screening Test (taken in the summer term of Year 1). Once again the school's KS1 data remains well above the national and at the top of local averages. All credit to children, parents/carers and school staff;
- continually monitoring the school budget;
- reviewing and ratifying the Scheme of Financial Delegation, Whistleblowing Policy, Lettings Policy and School Fund audit;
- attending training sessions including induction for new governors, interpreting schools' data, appraisal, appeals, training links, the role of the staff governor and Local Authority briefings;
- visiting the school in our capacity as governors, liaising with children and staff;
- continuing our termly governor surgeries, as advertised;
- continuing to work with Veolia and the local authority in relation to the Hollingdean depot. Whilst it appears that odour suppression measures are having some impact, I would urge parents to report any incidents of odour to :-
The Environment Agency on 0800807060 or
Peter Cox, Veolia on 07500078529 or 01273-544213
Without documented reports, the school have a decreased influence for change;

We have also welcomed Valentine Mulholland as a new Local Authority governor.

Governor minutes are available on the school website (but not until they are approved at a subsequent meeting.) Please take a look if you are interested in what we do.

Some of you may remember that each spring we invite all parents/carers to fill out a questionnaire which governors can then use as part of our monitoring procedures. Due to an increased workload around the future of our school, which has had to be our current priority, we will postpone this until, hopefully, next term.

Thank you for your continued support,

Rachel Attwell
Chair of Governors