

Governors' Newsletter Spring Term 2015

We are two thirds of the way through the school year and I trust that those of you who are new to the school now feel part of the community here. Governors have enjoyed working with Tracey Jarrett in evaluating what "we do well" and looking forward to even greater things!

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

- Continually monitoring the school budget; this presents greater problems year on year. We know we need to spend a considerable amount of money on outdoor provision for Reception children and the current financial allocation simply will not facilitate this. FODIS are instrumental in procuring resources which cannot be bought directly by the school but we will need more money to make our plans a reality. We are likely to be looking outside the immediate school community, so.....anyone with any ideas/connections - we would love to hear from you;
- Working alongside other schools to share best practice. Our links with Downs Junior School have strengthened considerably. Governors from both schools meet termly and projects between the two schools are evolving. We are particularly keen to improve transition (even though it was judged very favourably by OfSTED) so please pass on any thoughts or ideas (to either school);
- Reconstituting the Governing Body as required by DfE. We have chosen to retain four parent governors (we could have decreased the number to two) as we value the parental voice and perspective. Therefore: Oli Rahman, Julia Gallagher, Katie Salvidge and Sarah Axtell (your elected representatives) will continue in their role;
- Reviewing and ratifying school policies, the Scheme of Financial Delegation and a financial analysis;
- Attending training sessions including: Local Authority briefings, Chair to Chair, Equalities, Partnerships, Leading Efficient Schools;
- 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 Environment Agency 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 and Veolia on 01273-544213/07500078529. Without documented reports, the school have a decreased influence for change; I attend regular meetings with Veolia and Cityclean - sadly your local councillors are rarely present. With an impending local election, you may wish to raise it with them.

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. You can contact the Chair of Governors via the school office, either in writing/email or by requesting that she contact you which she will do as soon as possible.

Thank you to all the parents/carers who filled out a questionnaire at the last Parents' Evening. Governors will use these as part of our monitoring procedures and in our strive for improvement. We will report an analysis next term.

Thank you for your continued support, and enjoy the spring holiday.

Rachel Attwell
Chair of Governors