



Governors' Newsletter Spring Term 2016

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 continue to give their time freely and willingly to support the school in offering the very best all-round education for your children. You will be aware of local and national disquiet around changes in education, the increasing demands on teachers, the increasing expectations of children and a relentless desire to test them. Whilst we will follow statutory procedure, we are mindful of the pressures this raises and are committed to continuing to offer the children a broad and balanced curriculum with "testing" carried out as unobtrusively as possible. As a school, we are inevitably judged on our "results" and we will therefore prepare children as best we can for the Y1 and Y2 tests but we endeavour to do this in a child-friendly way and no child, whatever the outcome, should ever feel they have failed. I am confident that our staff do this and I know that we would support less testing if that were at all possible.

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

- Continually monitoring the school budget;
- Working alongside other schools to share best practice;
- Reviewing and ratifying school policies including: the Scheme of Financial Delegation and a financial analysis, Pay Policy, Business Continuity Plan, Disciplinary Policy.
- Attending training sessions including: Local Authority briefings/conference, Financial Management, Performance Management, Induction for New Governors;
- 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;
- Undertaking a staff survey;
- Succession planning for your new Chair of Governors.
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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