



Governors' Summer Term Newsletter

Dear parents and carers

Welcome to this Summer Term 2016 governor newsletter, which finds us at the end of the 2015/16 academic year. You will find previous governor newsletters at the school website 'www.wickhamchurchofenglandprimaryschool.co.uk', under the Governor section, and by then selecting 'governor newsletter'.

The Governors have been working extremely hard this academic year. This term has seen the school involved in recruitment for a number of positions across the school. Governors play a key role in the recruitment process, from short listing through to interviewing. Every governor involved in this experience feels a deep sense of responsibility to make the right choices for our school and we are very pleased with the outcomes and look forward to welcoming our new appointments in the new School Year. We've also worked at developing our governing body through meetings and training. Some of the training courses that we have been on are: Protecting Children, Parents as Governors -getting it right, Meeting the needs of all pupils and Monitoring, Evaluating and Improving SEN provision.

We have also welcomed a new co-opted governor to our Resources Committee - Rear Admiral (retired) Dick Melly. We shall be looking for a new Parent Governor to join us - more details of this to follow in September.

Our Chair of Governors - Jane Baskerville has spent the last few weeks speaking to you to find out what you feel the school does well and what we could do better. For Governors it was lovely to see so many positive comments about the school. Here is a selection of some of these comments:

"There is a real partnership between school and parents"

"My son is thriving"

"There is a lovely learning environment"

"Good at pinpointing where my son is struggling"

"I'm very happy with the way the children are looked after"

"The teachers work really hard - I really appreciate it!"

It was also interesting to hear your views on what the school could do better. There were two areas which some of you talked about in particular: Home School Diary/ Homework books and improving our sporting talents. Here is a selection of some of these comments:

"Communication with parents- home link book rarely comes home"

"Want homework targeted to topics, especially in Y5 and Y6"

"We are not competitive enough or good enough at sports- we don't dedicate enough time for teams"

"Cricket and Football clubs were on same day so children had to pick one. We can't field 2 good teams"

Thank you to all of you who took the time to speak to Mrs Baskerville. All comments have been passed on to Mrs Castle and the Senior Leadership team to see how we can improve on these areas and will be discussed at our next Standards and Outcomes meeting. A full list of all comments can be found on the schools website under the governors' section.

We know some parents were concerned about the recent strike action taken by members of staff last week and lack of information as to the reasons for it. It is every person's democratic right to be allowed to take such action, and as such it is respected. The dispute concerns such issues as the cuts to funding given to each school, academisation and teachers terms and working conditions. These are national issues and not something the school, nor Mrs Castle, can influence. A neutral stance had to be taken by Mrs Castle. She was not allowed to use supply, nor use LSA to cover for the absent staff.

As we break up for the summer holidays we the governors want to say a massive thank you to Mrs Castle and all the staff who work so hard for our children throughout the year and a particular BIG thank you to the staff we are sad to see leaving this year - Mr West, Mrs Arnold, Mrs Parker and Mrs Firth. We wish them well for the future.

A massive thank you to our wonderful children who have again demonstrated this year how wonderful and special they really are and a huge thank you to you as parents for supporting the school - we know it takes a lot of effort from you and we appreciate it. Also we would like to wish the current year 6 a sad goodbye as they move on to secondary school.

And finally a massive thank you to those of you who support the school through volunteering, especially our FOWPS committee. They have done a fantastic job in providing wonderful opportunities and equipment for the children which make a significant difference to the pupils at this school. We really appreciate all the work, planning and fundraising. A special thank you to Sophie Haines and Michele Farris who are standing down from Chair and Vice Chair of FOWPS at the end of this term.

Have a wonderful summer and we look forward to seeing you back in September.

Clare Piercy-Jones

Co-opted Governor