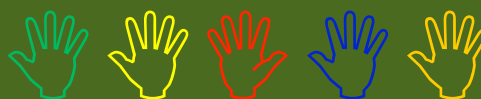


# Rusper Primary School



## Governors' Newsletter

### A Message from our Chair, Emma Worskett.....



Well, here we are nearly at the end of our first term with Mr A at the helm. It has been quite a change for the governors working with a new head but we already have a very good relationship with Mr A which is great and it is continuing to strengthen. He has really thrown himself into his new role with such enthusiasm and passion which is fantastic to see. He has been working extremely hard and together we are ensuring that the school is taking steps in the right direction to continue to improve.

We, as usual, have had a very busy term at Rusper with our two full governing body meetings and two committee meetings and our various monitoring visits. Mr A ensured that he hit the ground running by having a new School Improvement Plan in place by the beginning of term. The School Improvement Plan highlights the school's four main development priorities: Maths, Writing, Leadership and Management (targeting subject and middle leaders) and School Pupil Tracker (the school's new tracking system for pupil attainment and progress). He has also produced a monitoring calendar highlighting book looks and learning walks which our English governor (Wayne Mott) and Maths governor (David Warren) can attend. Class governors have been continuing their monitoring visits into their respective classes this term too.

As well as Mr A we also say hello to Mr Snook, Teacher for Pegasus Class and Mrs Michelle, Teaching Assistant. Welcome to both. I am the class governor associated with Pegasus class and I had a lovely time attending a Maths lesson before half term, getting to know the children and Mr Snook himself. With all the meetings we have and all the paperwork we have to deal with, we can sometimes lose sight of what should be the main focus of our work – the children. They are the main reason we do what we do. Spending time in a class is not only important but for me it is a real pleasure.

Ms Clarke, our staff governor, stepped down this term after eight years of service to the governing body. Governors would like to thank Ms Clarke for all her hard work and her invaluable contribution to the governing body over the years. We will miss you. So, we are now in the process of finding a new staff governor, so watch this space.....

We currently have a parent governor vacancy too. I am sure you will have seen the applications going out so again, watch this space.....

To finish off with, I was lucky enough to be at Rusper to witness the minute's silence which took place in the playground. All children and staff were there and it was a beautiful sunny, clear November day. The behaviour of the children was impeccable. They stood and listened to Mr A explaining the reason for the minute's silence and then they stood for the full minute, still and quiet. A minute is a long time, especially if you are only four or five. I came away feeling very proud to be part of this school and all that it stands for.

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and looking forward to continuing our journey of improvement next term.



### Welcome

Welcome to the  
Autumn Term 2016  
edition of the  
Governors' Newsletter.

### Keep in Touch

We're always keen to  
hear from you, for  
feedback on our  
Newsletter or the  
Parent Forum, or  
anything else at all!  
Drop us a line at  
[eworskett@rusper.w-  
sussex.sch.uk](mailto:eworskett@rusper.w-sussex.sch.uk)

### Parent Forum

Just a reminder that  
the next Parent Forum  
will take place on 8th  
December 2016. "What  
does greater parent  
involvement look like?"  
will be our main  
agenda focus but we'll  
be discussing other  
things as well; it  
would be great to see  
as many of you there  
as possible.

### And Finally.....

We'd like to wish all  
our parents, children  
and readers a very  
Merry Christmas and  
a Happy New Year!

## Governor Profile: Clerk to Governors



Hi everyone, my name is Anita McGuinness and I am the Clerk to Governors here at Rusper Primary School. I have been in the role

since June 2015; my duties include providing advice to the governing body on governance, constitutional and procedural matters including best practice. I manage all the administration and paperwork for the governing body; this includes convening full governing body and sub-committee meetings, writing meeting agendas, taking the minutes during the meetings and circulating the approved minutes and other relevant documentation to all governors. I manage the school policy schedules and ensure all policies remain compliant and up-to-date by bringing them to governing body meetings for regular review and approval by the governors. I also maintain training and development records for the governors and keep them updated on governance communications received from the Local Authority. Most recently, I have been involved in the parent & staff governor

elections. I enjoy my job and find it very rewarding; Rusper is very fortunate to have a such a wonderful governing body that is so hard-working and committed to the progress and development of the school.

I live in Horsham with my husband Lee and we have 3 children in full-time education. As a parent, I have always felt very passionately about the education our children receive; they are the future and learning should be an enriching, fulfilling and enjoyable experience for them. I love the ethos and core values that Rusper instils in its pupils; children are at the heart of the school's vision and I have nothing but the utmost respect for all the staff who work tirelessly to ensure that the children have the best possible experience during their school day.

I think Rusper is a wonderful school and I feel privileged to be a part of the school community. If you would like to know more about the governing body and what we do or if you have any questions about being a school governor then please don't hesitate to contact me on [office@rusper.w-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:office@rusper.w-sussex.sch.uk).

## PTA CORNER



by Wayne Mott (Parent Governor and Acting Vice-Chair of Governing Body) and Nikki Rooney (Chair of PTA)

Thanks to everyone that has already registered with [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/rusperprimary/](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/rusperprimary/).

Already one person alone has raised over £10 so please do take the few minutes needed to register and get shopping! Anyone can join so why not let the grandparents and other relatives know.

Every little helps 😊

Thanks also for all the Christmas cards, gift tags and wrapping paper orders. We look set to have raised around £170 and expect to receive them ready for you to collect at the Christmas Bazaar on the 9<sup>th</sup> December (15:30-16:30 in the village hall).

Don't forget also to sell and return your raffle tickets ahead of the draw @ 16:00 during the bazaar!



## Dates for your diary:

**Thursday 8th December**  
Parent Forum 3.00pm at the school

**Friday 9th December**  
Christmas Shop  
Christmas Bazaar 3.30pm in the Village Hall

**Friday 16th December**  
Nativity and Carols 12.00pm in the Church  
Last day of term - school closes at 1.00pm

**Sunday 25th December**  
Santa visits all the children

**Wednesday 4th January 2017**  
First day of Spring Term

## ROAD SAFETY POSTER WINNERS

### by Judith Clarke (Deputy Head and Outgoing Staff Governor)



We recently ran a Road Safety Awareness Campaign and Competition and invited the children to design posters to be displayed at the school gates. We received lots of fabulous posters and ideas and had a tough time narrowing them down and here are our two winners with their winning posters. Congratulations to Rosie Pinder and Harvey Boulton-Roe – Here's what they had to say about their designs:

#### Harvey Boulton-Roe – KS2 Winner

"I decided to draw a man holding his goggles and looking at the car because it was an interesting way of making people think about being safe near our school. I want people to look carefully when crossing the road. I chose the phrase, "People Stop and Think. It turns to gridlock in a blink" because outside our school the traffic can be terrible at times and accidents can happen in a blink. I highlighted "Stop" in red to make it stand out and I want people to stop when children are crossing the road outside our school."

#### Rosie Pinder – KS1 Winner

"I chose some bright colours to tell people about crossing carefully near our school. I drew a curly road to make it more interesting. I drew colourful pictures of children to make people think about the children. I wrote, "Please be careful, Children Crossing" to help people think about being safe near our school."



## PARENTS INVOLVED!

### by David Warren (Parent Governor)

As parents, we are all conscious of the role we play in supporting the learning of our children, so it was great to see that in action with so many of us attending the assessment workshop for parents.

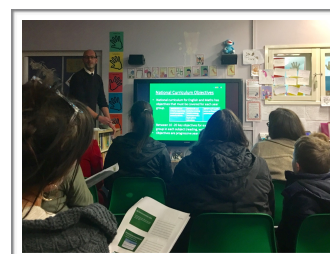
We also know that some of us are just not able to get to school sometimes, so I thought it could be helpful to share my thoughts on what we covered in the 'Assessment Workshop for Parents' on 29th November.

Mr A led the workshop, which focused on helping us understand the assessment framework the school uses, what the specific assessments are, how judgements are made and the language used in making and recording assessments.

It helped us to better understand what we see and hear when we talk to the teachers about our children's progress and when we read the school reports. I hope it will also help us to ask better questions and offer better support in our children's home learning.

I am sure it also showed some of us just how much has changed since our own schooling and how important it is now for children to meet all of the key objectives.

If you did not make it along and would like to learn more, you are very welcome to ask Mr A and the governors any questions you may have at our next parent forum on Thursday 8th December at 3pm. On behalf of all the parents that attended, I would like to thank Mr A and his team for taking the time to open the doors to us and for demonstrating how important collaboration between home and school is to improving outcomes for our children.



## Getting Involved – Parent Forum and Questionnaire



We have our next parent forum on Thursday 8th December, so do come along if you can. It is a great opportunity to ask questions about the school's progress and the tea is free of charge!

If you cannot attend, it would still be great to know how you feel about your involvement with the school and what we can do to help. Please take a couple of minutes to complete this survey and drop it into reception by Wednesday 7th December. Thank you.

1. How involved do you feel in your child's education?

- Very involved
- Quite involved
- Not involved

2. How involved would you like to be going forward?

- More involved
- About the same
- Less Involved

3. Does the governor newsletter help you feel involved?

- Very helpful
- Quite helpful
- Not helpful

4. What other ways would help you feel involved?