

# Rusper Primary School



## Governors' Newsletter

### Welcome

Welcome to the Summer Term 2017 edition of the Governors' Newsletter.

### Keep in Touch

We're always keen to hear from you, for feedback on our Newsletter, 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)

Thank you to all those who attended our last Governor-Parent Forum. We love meeting you and hearing your thoughts and views about the school so please do try and come along whenever you can. We will be holding the forums every term next year.



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

It's great to be "Good" .....

Well, I expect you will have all heard the good news by now that the outcome of Ofsted's visit in June is that they have declared that we are now a "Good" school.

Having dropped to "Requires Improvement" just over two years ago, it has been a long and hard journey but the Ofsted result is a testament to all the hard work that Mr A. and all the staff have put in. Since joining us last September, Mr A has, amongst other things, really pushed the drive for improvement and with a highly rigorous monitoring calendar in place has ensured that progress is a high priority at Rusper. Governors would like to say a really big thank you to Mr Avey, Ms Clarke and all the staff for all that they have done to enable the school to achieve such a fantastic result.

A lot of work is being done on finalising a shared vision and mission statement for Rusper and this will culminate in governors attending the INSET day in September to finalise what has been achieved so far, including a workshop run by our very own David Warren which was really successful.

Governors were part of a very positive meeting with the Local Adviser from County this term. He was very encouraging about how things were going at Rusper which was great to hear.

Amongst many, many other things this term, I was lucky enough to visit the PGL site in preparation for the Year 5/6 trip. It was a great place with countless exciting activities for the children, set amongst some fantastic scenery. I gather they all had a fantastic time and achieved great things and it was really good to see all the pictures that went up on Twitter.

Governors were invited to take part in the running of Sports Day this year and were given the all important task of deciding upon first, second and third places, sometimes not that easy a task I hasten to add! After sports day, governors helped with the school fair by running a sweetie tombola (thanks to Tony Tripp for all your help with this). The fair had a lovely atmosphere and proved to be a great fundraiser – well done PTA!

It is with regret that we have to say goodbye to Eileen Beckman who is an Associate Member at Rusper. Eileen started off as a Parent Governor and then became an Associate Member, but as her daughter left the school last year she felt it was now time to step down. So, thank you Eileen.

As the school year draws to a close, it is good to reflect on all that has happened over the year and yes it has been quite a year. As I have said before, I am very proud to be part of all that goes on at Rusper. Ofsted have confirmed we are now a "Good" school but I think you will all agree with me that it is indeed a great school.



## Meet the Governors – Kim Wickens



My name is Kim Wickens and I work in the office at Rusper. I was invited to become the Staff Governor in the Autumn Term 2016. I have three teenage children, all of whom have been pupils at Rusper and have since gone on to secondary schools in Horsham. One has just finished at Collyers and is sitting her A-Levels. My youngest was in Year 1 when I started working here so I had already had some years affinity to the school. Rusper gave my children a nurturing and secure academic start and as a family we have very fond memories of their time here.

Working here, although rather manic at times, is a generally a pleasure and I love seeing the new faces and following them as they grow and eventually leave to move on to their next adventure. There is a wonderful family atmosphere here which enriches the children's learning and time at our school. I feel we are all very lucky to be a part of such a lovely village school and the wider community.



### "You said... We are listening" by Emma Worskett

Here we address some feedback received at the last Governor-Parent forum:

"Would like to see after school and breakfast learning clubs even if they were offered at a fee to parents – SPAG, maths etc"

There is not a clear plan for an outside school hours learning club but we hope to have this in place for the Spring Term next year (if not the Autumn and Summer Terms as well, if possible)

"Better food provision at lunchtimes – less burgers, pizza etc"

The school has had a new menu this term but there doesn't appear to be less frequency of burgers and pizzas. We will look into this further.

"Sports Clubs for all year groups, not just KS2 and/or Years 5/6"

This term the school is running a KS1 multi-sports club

"Would like equal importance on non-academic qualities and a whole school development of 'kindness' beyond the school gates"

We are re-appraising the school's values and mission statement to reflect this

"Could Rusper have a Summer Fete?"

The Summer Fete will take place on Friday 7 July 2017 at 3.00-5.00pm

"There still needs to be more consistent communication between staff/parents"

We communicate with parents through a variety of means: currently there is a monthly school newsletter and a termly governors' newsletter. Texts and emails are sent via eSchools as and when required and we also now have a Twitter account. Follow us, @RusperPrimary!

## GOVERNORS IN ACTION I BOOK LOOK

by Catherine Pinder (Parent Governor)



In May I joined Ms Clarke for a Literacy Book Look, where we looked for evidence that quality teaching of writing, spelling and phonics is accelerating progress in pupils' writing. The teachers had recently spent time at an INSET day defining the criteria they will use to assess progress in grammar, punctuation and spelling, so we focused on seeing how this criteria was being used to inform teachers' planning, teacher/pupil dialogue and subsequent next steps for each pupil. We looked at books across KS1 and KS2, as well as across a range of abilities. We saw lots of evidence that KS2 children were using the criteria to self-evaluate their work and improve it, for example one pupil comment said, "I am 80% confident that I've

met the success criteria." In KS1 the children are encouraged to colour smiley faces to indicate that they are doing self evaluation and Ms Clarke showed me some of her ideas for how this could become more embedded with the younger children, such as using picture-based checklists rather than text. The quality of work we reviewed in the Book Look was impressive and it seems that good progress is being made towards improving the pupils' writing. It is clear that the teachers are putting in a lot of hard work to achieve this and it was great to see that their approach is being consistently applied throughout both KS1 and KS2.

Keep up the good work!



## GOVERNORS IN ACTION II HOBBIT CLASS VISIT

by Eileen Beckmann (Associate Member)



On the afternoon of Friday 26 May, I was invited to attend a workshop that Key Stage 2 had prepared for the younger children in Hobbit class about the civilisation called Benin. It was so inspiring to see how engaged all the children were. We started the session with some of the children doing a role play about life as a Benin. They were clear and articulate with their lines and supportive of each



other. Following on from this short 'play' they had set out a number of different areas in the class where small groups of 2-4 children were demonstrating various artefacts from this time period. They were enthusiastically explaining about the culture of the Benin people, from the type of tools they used to the jewellery they wore. The children were also able to demonstrate on a map where the Benin people lived. I could see that they had really researched the subject and were able to display this with hands on practical and fun methods of learning for the younger children.

The younger children were very engaged at each 'station' and enjoyed holding the artefacts and asking questions which were beautifully answered. The children seemed to really enjoy learning from each other and the older ones took the responsibility given to them very seriously. When asked if they enjoyed the activity, all the responses I was given were very positive. I look forward to being invited to attend the next child led 'lesson!'







## PTA CORNER

by Nikki Rooney  
(Chair of PTA)

I have to say a huge **THANK YOU** to everyone for your continuing support throughout this busy year. By combining all our efforts I'm pleased to say that we have raised over £3,000. For a school our size this really is something to be very proud of! Staff are busy gathering quotes for the classroom resources they would like to have in place for September, so we will be putting the funds raised to good use as quickly as possible.

This school year is not quite over yet, however, and my children can always find room for cake so let's not forget the Gruffalo cake sale on Friday 21 July (the day of the Rusper Ramble)!

For me there is a real sense of community developing around the school which is great and I hope the fun events and activities the PTA have put on are contributing to this. We are always keen to welcome new members to meetings or the email discussion group, so if you have any ideas, thoughts or comments that you would like to share then please make a note of the next meeting date (Tuesday 12 September @18:30) and/or get in touch via our email address ([pta@rusper.w-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:pta@rusper.w-sussex.sch.uk)).

## Monitoring Success

by David Warren (Parent Governor)



Following the Ofsted visit 2 years ago, the governing body was advised to make improvements in the teaching and monitoring of the core subjects of Maths and English. The role of Governors is to monitor how the schools is setting itself to achieve improvements and Simon Young and I are allocated this responsibility for Maths. Every term we partner with Mr Snook, our school's maths leader, to review of a selection of pupil books, observe lessons in each class and review the data that shows pupil progress towards year-end attainment.

A key part of our role is to ask great questions, and to listen for evidence of progress. It was great to see that Ofsted have seen our progress, so before we get back to making more progress, I would like to say a big thank you to all the staff and all the pupils for being so welcoming of all the governors and all our questions.



## Dates for your diary:

Tues 18 Jul	ASSH Rounders
Fri 21 Jul	Rusper Ramble
Tues 25 Jul	Last Day Term (9.45am Year 6 Leavers Assembly - families welcome)
Mon 4 Sept	INSET Day
Tues 5 Sept	INSET Day
Wed 6 Sept	Start of Autumn Term

## Farewell to Year 6

Sadly, it's time to say goodbye to our Year 6 children but it feels like only yesterday that they were eagerly arriving at the school gates for the first time in their pristine uniforms. We are all very proud of the immense strides they have made in both confidence and their academic achievements. It is traditional to say good luck in these instances but we know they won't need it so instead we wish them every success in their future endeavours as they continue their learning journeys in their new schools and we do hope that some of them will drop by to tell us how they are getting on and share their new achievements with us.

