



Northchapel Community Primary School and Little Oaks Preschool



GOVERNORS' NEWSLETTER 2019

Producing high achievers through creative learning

As we write our Governors' Newsletter for the year, we want to remind you about who we are and what we do for our School.

Governors and what we do

Anthea Martin-Jenkins – Chair

Andy James – Vice-Chair & Chair of Finance and Facilities Committee

Helen Coleman – Head Teacher & Safeguarding Lead

Deborah Coggin – Deputy Head & Maths Specialist

Andy Tate – Premises & Forest School

Heather Lucas – Safeguarding, Special Needs & Wellbeing

Dan Grinter – Chair of Teaching & Learning Committee

Rick Blanco – Associate Governor



We have co-opted Lynda Bell, who is Chairman of Northchapel Parish Council, who will join the Governing Body in September.

There is currently a vacancy for a Parent Governor, which we hope to be able to fill in the autumn. Please consider whether you might like to stand as a Parent Governor and have a chat with one of the Governors to find out more about what is involved. It is a super opportunity to be part of shaping our lovely school for the future.

We give our time voluntarily to ensure

- The clarity of vision and ethos of the School
- The Head Teacher is accountable for the educational performance of the School
- The financial accountability of the School

We attend termly Governing Body meetings and meetings of the various Committees to set targets and review progress. We work closely with county advisers, outside agencies, other schools and attend training courses to help the Head and Staff to achieve the best possible results and to ensure that we continue to improve the standard of education by offering an exciting and broad curriculum.



How is the School doing?

Teaching & Learning:

We have had another very successful year academically and are very proud of the results achieved by the children as well as the wonderful topics covered and wider curriculum.

Early Years – number of children achieving Good Level of Development 15 children	60%	Lower than last year but recognition that several children missed it by a close margin purely because of speech and language concerns which are being worked on in class.
Y1 phonics 11 children	73%	In line with National average, two children only missed the pass mark by 3 marks and will easily pass next year.
Y2 – Reading standard 8 children	88%	Improvement on last year and above the National Average
Writing standard	88%	Significant improvement on last year and above the National Average
Maths standard	88%	Improvement on last year and above the National Average
Overall RWM combined	75%	Significant improvement on last year
Y6 – Reading standard	86%	Improvement on last year and above the National Average
Writing standard	57%	
Maths standard	79%	
Overall RWM combined	57%	Significant improvement on last year

The School has been focused on improving Maths in the last year, working alongside St Paul's Maths Hub with a Specialist Leader of Education called Rebecca Turvill working with us. Together with Deborah Coggin, the Maths lead in School, she has developed a new curriculum document, ensuring excellent coverage and challenge in every year group. New resources have been purchased and every teacher has had focused professional time to develop the mastery approach to teaching Maths, supporting children in fluency, problem solving and reasoning using concrete apparatus, pictorial representations and abstract methods. Children across the School are now much more able to talk about the process they have used to get to an answer and check their work for accuracy. Our subscription to Time Tables Rockstars has given every child a fun way to learn tables and embed this essential knowledge. The achievement in end of year tests shows this work has paid off. Our focus will move next year back to writing and spelling to give it similar attention and improve accuracy, fluency and content across the School.

Finances:

As has been seen in the News a lot over recent months it is becoming increasingly hard to make ends meet in schools these days. However, we are pleased to say that with careful stewardship we were able to balance our budget again this year and, with some carry-forward, are on a sound financial footing for the next academic year as well. We are now starting to look at the following year as part of our forward planning. Clearly the number of children on the school roll makes a massive difference to our fortunes and it is hoped that the excellent work that is happening to promote the School will result in some extra children joining too. Pre-school is an important source of new pupils to the main School and this also continues to perform well.

Facilities:

Whilst we have not had significant investment activities over the course of the past academic year, there has been a steady stream of improvements to the buildings and grounds which will continue through the school holidays to ensure we provide a safe and well equipped environment in which our children can learn. We are particularly proud of the new Campion Wildlife Garden created by children in Beech Class along with Mrs Clifford and Mrs Phillips.



Also the new interactive whiteboards were provided using PTA funds and have made a big difference to teaching. We have also bought a new server as we continue to invest in improving our technology capabilities. Engagement in clubs increased to 93% which was a fantastic achievement. The Committee particularly noted the excellent work in maximising the use of the swimming

pool and the impressive achievements made by the children in the recent Swimathon with an average of 106 lengths swum by each of the children in Beech Class and half the class swimming a mile or more. We were also successful in our bid for funding from the Healthy Child Capital Grant and were able to install new playground equipment and markings that have been hugely popular with the children.



Special Needs, Safeguarding and Wellbeing:

We continue to work hard to offer the best support possible for SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) and our experienced SENDCo is only part-time but excellent at keeping all the Staff up to date with the complicated array of interventions, assessments and target tracking that are in place. We are committed to staff hours dedicated to supporting interventions and also a strong team of Teaching Assistants supporting pupils in class. Sadly, the current climate for schools and additional support from outside agencies is hard to secure as thresholds keep rising. So, it is not without many external challenges.

Safeguarding in School benefits from the close-knit community that a rural village school can offer with everyone knowing everyone on some level. We have recently improved our recording of personal data and checks in line with, and in addition to, the latest County Guidelines. If you ever have any safeguarding concerns you are able to contact MASH (the Multi Agency Hub) WSCC independently and you can always talk to us at School. There is a poster in the entrance reception giving all the details. The aim is always to support rather than blame and we want every child to feel and be safe.



Wellbeing is now on the Governors' regular agenda to reflect the growing awareness of its importance to both health, happiness and learning. It is not a topic that sits

easily with prescriptive policies and we are building on our established school culture for kindness and support. Kindness is currently receiving a fresh focus for both pupils and Staff (as in the new Kindness Cup for pupils and the continued use of the Staff's 'Shout Out' board for sharing positivity). Staff wellbeing is increasingly being reported as under pressure nationally and it is no real surprise when we look at the hugely diverse set of expectations that are put onto the teacher role. The invisible hours and stresses are usually longer and greater than most of us appreciate from the outside. The Staff are currently completing their second annual wellbeing questionnaire as we try to keep an eye on where improvements can be made.

What next?

We are delighted that Deborah Coggin has accepted the position of Acting Head Teacher from September

We have a strong and experienced Staff Team

We shall be welcoming Ms Fiona Clancy as a Teacher in Reception/Rowan Class

We shall be focusing on handwriting and spelling

We shall be offering a wide range of clubs



And finally...

As mentioned previously, there is constant financial pressure on all schools, due to Government under-funding, and this is particularly acute in West Sussex. We are determined to do everything possible to ensure that we retain the best possible staff and that our School remains an important part of our local community. This can only be achieved by careful control of our budget and the dedication and efforts of Governors, Staff, Parents and Carers so we are particularly grateful to the PTA, whose energetic fundraising efforts have raised some £8,300 to date to support our work.



As always, the children have worked hard and made good progress this year. We wish those moving on to their next schools the best of luck and hope that they will remember their time here as a happy start to their education. Very sadly, we say farewell to Helen Coleman, who is moving on after twelve years at Northchapel. She has been a creative and inspirational Head and has done an enormous amount to introduce new ideas and move the School to a higher level and she will be much-missed.

We wish her well and hope she won't miss us too much!

Deborah Coggin will be stepping into the Head's role and we are confident that she will be a worthy successor. We are counting on the support of everyone as she takes up her new position and ensures that she is able to build on Helen's legacy.

We wish you all a happy, healthy and enjoyable summer holiday with your families and we look forward to welcoming new and existing pupils back to School in September.