

Governing Body Update

We believe as a Governing Body that it is useful to update our community on key pertinent issues that formed the basis for healthy debate/agreement/ratification at our recent Governing Body meeting on Weds 13th January 2021.

We were delighted to welcome Ian Davidson, Phillippa Dunford-Jeffs, Jessica Haigh and Kelly Dale to the Local Governing Body . You may recognise Kelly as the manager of Strensall Library.

Lockdown 3

The governors are supportive of the Senior Leaderships decision to only offer places to families who have 2 critical worker parents. Currently there are high numbers of children accessing the provision in school. This presents a real challenge for the in school balancing provision of home learning with Covid safe face to face learning for those staff, children and ultimately families in schools

Home Learning

Governors held a good discussion around how the school is implementing home learning. The planned curriculum has been adapted to enable children to access lessons. We were encouraged by the blended approach the staff are offering with voice overs and videos accompanying slides. Live lessons within a primary school can be a challenge, Ofsted accept that these are not necessarily the gold standard and a more blended approach works better. Live sessions will be experimented with over the coming weeks.

The governors and staff are encouraged to see a high level of engagement from the children with online lessons, this is considerably higher than during lockdown 1. There has been a lot of positive feedback from parents, which has greatly lifted the spirits of the staff who are working extremely hard to balance teaching the children in school whilst giving priority time toward supporting the children learning at home.

Pre Christmas visits and Governor findings

Before the current lockdown the governors were able to make on site visits to meet with the lead teachers for KS2 and KS1 along with a very informative curriculum committee. These meetings demonstrated that effective work that has been carried out so far developing and invigorating a new curriculum. A great deal of planning and delivery of intervention and catch up had been implemented during Autumn term and the school data was beginning to show real progress. Much work had gone into identifying learning needs moving forward into spring term particularly how the government catchup funding was going to be used. Sadly much of this will be on hold until all pupils return, but this investment in time and energy will not be wasted as these interventions can be used over the coming year.

Thanks and appreciation

The Governors want to celebrate the resilience of the children, the teachers and family communities who with little notice have adapted and engaged a life change and very different methods of learning.

The Governing body prides itself on its duty of care towards the wellbeing of its staff especially during these unprecedented times it has been reassuring to hear from staff member who feel led, guided, supported and listened to by the senior leadership team.

Keep well and stay safe.

RWPA Governing Body