

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 3rd March 2021.

During this year one of the Governing Body's key focus has been to become more visible to the school community so that you understand what we do and know who we are. With this in mind we are continuing our theme of introducing you to members of the RWPA Governing Body.

Philipa Dunford-Jeffs (Parent Governor)
KS2 Phase governor



Lizzy Arnold (Staff governor)
Year 1 Team leader



I returned to York to be close again to family and friends. The Strensall community has been wonderful and supportive throughout lockdown.

Our son is in Year 2 and I hope through this role I can help make a difference to the future of RWPA. I work in the independent school sector and am responsible for fundraising and maintaining contact with former pupils. Being a governor will help me learn more about the educational aspects of the school.

I enjoy regular bootcamp sessions and undoing all the hard work with baking! I can often be found cheering at the side of the football pitch on the weekend

As a teacher I've had the privilege to teach and be part of the wonderful Robert Wilkinson Primary Academy community. This has allowed me to develop strong bonds with children, parents, staff and the local community. I've been an active staff governor for over two years and I've led local community projects such as renovating outdoor learning areas, leading the school choir at Strensall carnival and even teaching funkasize classes! My passion is to be part of an include, progressive and vibrant governing body where we support all children to achieve and thrive.

A True Celebration:

With all children now heading back to school on Monday, the governors would like to celebrate the strong links which have developed between school and home during the Covid pandemic, especially during the recent lockdown. We recognise that children grow and prosper best when all the adults around them (both home and school) work together.

We acknowledge how difficult it has been to juggle work and home learning and after seeing at the Governing Body meeting the analysis of high levels of home learning engagement and the positive results

from the parent/carer questionnaire, we felt it was really important to celebrate the achievements of everyone involved.

Over the weeks live learning as well as high quality video support has been increasing with an aim of helping the children to reconnect with their friends and teachers in preparation for the return to school.

Thank you to everyone who has helped our pupils continue their learning during this current lockdown.

Below is the wonderful display year 1 staff and pupils have created for the front gates to welcome all our pupils back to school on Monday 8th.



The Coming Weeks:

The school is highly focused on the next few weeks before Easter and then of course the summer term ahead.

It's been wonderful to meet a number of the teaching staff during this past fortnight and see the excitement and enthusiasm as they prepare for the return of all pupils. There is a real buzz around the school.

The school staff have planned a specific 3 week theme based on a book called 'The Barnabus Project' which is a beautiful story with so many messages within it. (If you do take a look at it, keep it a secret for now so that the teachers can introduce it little by little next week) The theme has been designed to:

1. Reignite passion for learning.
2. Offer time for wellbeing & thoughtful discussion.
3. Link the learning of subjects together in a context.
4. Create displays around the school which will be relevant to all the children for the Summer term ahead.

During this time the teachers will be observing and working alongside the children laying the groundwork for the work ahead in the summer term. All work done before Christmas and through this lockdown period will definitely not go to waste as this will be used and built upon, along with careful assessment to help the teachers plan carefully for all the children after Easter.

During the summer term, the governors will be keenly monitoring, through discussion with staff, how the identified catch up funding is being spent, how these resources and interventions are being implemented and how successful they are in moving pupil's learning forward.

The governing body are looking forward to the time when we can be on site more regularly to visit school and see the wonderful work the staff and children will be creating over the coming weeks.

Keep well and safe

RWPA Governing Body