

Rusper Primary School



Governors' Newsletter

Welcome

Welcome to the Spring 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

Parent Forum

Just a reminder that this term's Parent Forum will take place on Friday 31st March at 9.00am at the school.

Do come along and tell us how you think things are going at Rusper.

How do you think the school has changed over the last year?

Where would you like to see the school a year from now?

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

Firstly, I am very pleased to inform you that we have three new governors at Rusper. Catherine Pinder was voted on as Parent Governor, Simon Young agreed to join us as a co-opted governor and Kim Wickens, who I am sure you all know, is our new staff governor. I would like to welcome

them all and thank them for coming aboard. These are exciting times at Rusper and it is great to have a full governing body. Recently however, we have decided to increase the number of governors that we have at Rusper to enable us to perform more effectively and already we have the possibility of someone coming through the Local Authority to fulfil this role. More about this in next term's newsletter.

The main areas of focus for governors this term, in line with the School Improvement Plan, are Maths for more able pupils across the school and Phonics in Key Stage 1 and Spelling in Key Stage 2. Governors have been making monitoring visits into school including book looks and learning walks to enable us to see that improvements are taking place in these particular areas and it is looking good. Teachers are working really hard to embed the new Phonics and Spelling interventions, for instance. Governors have seen some good evidence of progress in Phonics and in a recent book look there were certainly some signs of early impact from the Spelling intervention implemented earlier this term. It was lovely to see so many of you at the Phonics Workshop and it is great that so many of you have managed to attend the Family Phonics sessions.

Mr A still strives to drive the school forward with his continuing enthusiasm, relentless hard work and an abundance of new ideas. Governors have a very strong and open relationship with him and he always ensures we are well informed and kept up to date with all matters relating to the school.

We had a very positive visit from the Local Advisor from County. I was able to be part of this visit and it was very encouraging to hear the positive feedback from his learning walk around the school. He was very complimentary about support staff, teachers, children's behaviour for learning and the learning environment itself. He also discussed how the school can make sure it is clear on how to report progress in preparation for the next Ofsted visit.

We will be holding our Parent Forum for this term on Friday 31st March at 9.00am. Please come along and meet the governors and tell us how you think things are going at Rusper. We would also be interested in hearing your thoughts about how you would like to see the school in twelve months time. We would love to hear your views and yes, as usual, there will be biscuits!

Finally, if you haven't seen the "Extreme Reading" photos in the hub, implemented by Mr A, do come and have a look — they are on the website too. It's a great idea and fantastic to see joint input from all stakeholders — we are all up there!!!!!!



Meet the Governors – Tony Tripp

My name is Tony Tripp and I was invited to become a co-opted governor back in the summer of 2016. I am part of the Leadership and Management (L&M) Committee. Many of you have probably seen me at the school either dropping off or collecting my two granddaughters: Liliana (Unicorn) and Hailie-May (Gruffalo). I also read with the children at least once a week.



I fell in love with Rusper 15 years ago when I first drove through the village. It was an unspoilt working village and I was amazed to see that Rusper still had its own school, as so many village schools have disappeared over recent years. I moved to Rusper from Worthing about a year later with my wife Stephanie and my 2 grown up children, both of whom eventually flew the nest, but one returned some 5 years later with 2 children of her own. I always hoped that one day I would have grandchildren that would attend Rusper school (if it was still there) when the time eventually arrived. Well, all of that has happened

and now I can see how privileged both of my grandchildren are to attend such a fine school.

I have spent most of my career as an electrical engineer involved in the design of power distribution networks, town and city infrastructure and electrical building services, mainly in the Middle East, but for the last 25 years or so I have been running a small business both writing and selling computer software to electrical contractors and designers.

I love music, especially Mozart, and I also play the guitar a bit and have played in bands since I was 15. As a musician, it was such a treat to see the children playing musical instruments in the village hall and in the church over the last couple of years under Mrs Packham. I am pleased to see that Mr Avey plays the guitar and I trust that he will continue to encourage music to be played in this school in the future.

Whenever I think of Rusper Primary School there is one word that always comes to mind....“Privileged”



“You said... We are listening...”

by Emma Worskett

Here is some feedback from the last Parent Forum:

- Parents were not happy with the standard of hot school meals at Rusper, so this subject will be part of our parent survey in the summer term.
- There was a query regarding the fact that a parent had not been informed that their child was attending intervention programmes. Staff are working to improve communications re interventions.
- Parents were concerned about the last minute cancellation of school clubs. In the future, where possible, last minute cancellations will be avoided.
- Following on from a conversation about the Parent Notice Board outside, the intention is now for the present notice board to be moved to where parents will have easier access to it during drop off and pick up times.



Have you heard of Parent View?

Parent View is an online questionnaire and the main route for parents and carers to give their views to Ofsted about Rusper Primary School at any time of the year. It also offers a simple way for those who lead and manage schools to find out what parents think of the school.

It's easy and quick – for more information, log on to <http://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk>

GOVERNORS IN ACTION I KS1 BOOK LOOK

by Wayne Mott (Parent Governor)



Governors are regularly invited into school during the school day to observe lessons, talk with the children and look at all of the fabulous work being undertaken in their work books. We are always made to feel very welcome both by the children and staff. Our visits provide a valuable insight into how the school is continually trying to improve, how the school facilities are being used and how the school budget is being invested. In one such recent visit, Catherine Pinder (our new Parent Governor) and I undertook a 'book look' led by Deputy Head and Literacy subject leader Ms Clarke. On this occasion we were looking at the impact of two newly introduced initiatives 'No Nonsense Spelling' and 'Song of Sounds'. I can report that both of these new initiatives have required funding, teacher training (during INSET days) and a considerable amount of preparation work outside of the school day. Both the staff and children have really hit the ground running with these new schemes and we can already see that there is a noticeable positive impact in workbooks. On behalf of the governing body, we are grateful to both the children and staff for allowing us to visit school. Keep up the good work!



GOVERNORS IN ACTION II GRUFFALO CLASS VISIT

by Catherine Pinder (Parent Governor)

This term I was warmly welcomed in to a phonics session with Gruffalo class. It was fantastic to hear all the children confidently singing the 'Song of Sounds', complete with accompanying actions.



The classroom walls were filled with visual prompts, displaying colourful picture clues as well as the letters that form the sounds they are studying. The class were focusing on the letter S, singing about sizzling sausages, and practising forming the letter, "Starting at the snake's head, down and round to his tail."

The interactive white board was invaluable to the session, with the children volunteering to come and trace with their fingers to show the others what they could do. The children were keen to put their individual stamps on the proceedings, which resulted in the board being filled with a rainbow of S's and demonstrated that they all knew their way around this sophisticated technology! During the session, the children progressed on to blending the sounds they knew, to read and write some basic words.



As the children moved on to a well-earned playtime I chatted with Mrs Thompson who said that the song was not only a great method for engaging the children, but she believed it was accelerating the progress the children were making getting to grips with this early stage of reading and writing. There is no doubt that a lot of hard-work is going in to embedding 'the Song of Sounds' into KS1 and the results are very encouraging!



PTA CORNER

by Wayne Mott

Governors would like to extend a HUGE THANK YOU to everyone who has helped and supported the PTA with their fundraising efforts! To date, they have raised just over £2000 towards this years target of £2,500 which is FANTASTIC! The school budget is under enormous pressure and this fundraising is going to have a direct impact on your children's learning environment. To help get them over the finishing line there are some great family events coming up:

The EASTER EGG TRAIL will take place in the grounds of Ghyll Manor Hotel from 3:30-5:30pm on Wednesday 5th April. All the children, their friends and families are very welcome so please do spread the word. Tickets are on sale now in the office or in the playground from a PTA rep and cost just £2 per child (with a guaranteed chocolate Easter egg with each trail ticket purchased). Each ticket also includes one free entry to our competition to win one of two £30 Go Ape vouchers, or a big cuddly toy for those under 6.

MAY DAY: May 1st from 12.30pm. The PTA are working on some exciting plans for this popular village celebration. Watch out for more info and save the date!

The PTA is also looking to set up a pop-up second hand SCHOOL UNIFORM SHOP to pass on good quality items of school uniform, PE kit and book bags for a small fundraising donation. To check the feasibility of this enterprise they are seeking donations of suitable items (into the office) asap please.

To Nikki and all the PTA team,
"Well done and the very best of luck with all of your efforts!"

from the pupils, staff and Governing body



New Road Safety Working Group Initiative

by Catherine Pinder



A key focus for safeguarding the children of Rusper School is road safety, as the road outside is becoming increasingly busy at the start and end of the school day. You may be aware that the council recently undertook a traffic survey through Rusper, which we hope will lead to lower speed restrictions through the village. Whilst we await the outcome of this, the governors are keen to gather your insight in to ways to improve the road safety as well as record and understand the type of safety incident occurring on the road. We have devised a short questionnaire which we hope will capture any road safety incidents witnessed by anyone in the community. The questionnaire will be available to complete electronically over the internet, but also on paper available from the school office. We hope to form a working group of parents/carers who can then use this information to gain a better understanding of the problem and come up with some sensible options for making the road safer for our children. More details of how you can get involved and how to complete a questionnaire will be sent out from the office very soon.



Dates for your diary:

Friday 31 March	Parent Forum 9.00am
Wed 5 April	Easter Egg Trail Ghyll Manor
Friday 7 April	Easter Service at St Mary Magdalene Church, Rusper, 12.00pm - All Welcome
	Last Day of Term
Monday 24 April	INSET Day
Monday 1 May	Rusper May Day Celebrations