



Governor Newsletter

Welcome to the Town Field Primary Governing Body Newsletter

Who are the Governing Body?

The Governors are an important part of the school whose role is to set the strategic direction of the school and oversee the budgets allocated to the school. We work with the head teacher to ensure the school serves the community the best way it can. There are 11 governor positions including 4 parent governors who are elected by parents of the school. Governors are volunteers who provide their time and skills to the school in setting and achieving the aims of the school.

This first part of this term has been one of the most difficult for school in recent years with many staff and pupils having to self-isolate. It is a remarkable testament to the staff who have rallied round and supported each other and families of the school. The governors want to pay tribute to the school staff for their flexibility and hard work ensuring there have been no year group closures and after such a difficult term and we want to thank them all. We also want to thank parents and carers for your continued support for school during this time. School life is now returning to normal with school open to visitors and school clubs up and running, however there is still much work to be done to replace lost learning and to continue to keep covid away from school.

Phonics and Reading

Governors, over this term have been focusing their attention on the teaching of phonics. This is a priority for the school and with that in mind we have invested in new schemes and books, "Little Wandle" is a scheme that provides materials for teaching pupils to read across the school, giving a consistent approach in all classes with good monitoring systems in place. Teaching Phonics is a school priority for learning and enjoyment, and you will have seen from the school Twitter feed reading for pleasure is something that the children have been really enjoying this term. Teachers are skilled in teaching phonics but for children to make maximum progress, they do need to be supported at home so please do listen to the children read and encourage them to talk about the books they like to read. If you have any questions about how to do this, then please do talk to your child's teacher.

As part of the work done by school in relation to reading, we had the benefit of joining the poetry assembly on the 25th of March, where each class from Years 2 - 6 performed a poetry reading. We were blown away by the enthusiasm and engagement we saw. A huge well done to every child who took part, you were fantastic, and we really enjoyed watching. Thank you too to all staff who supported this work, your classes all did you proud, thankfully we didn't have to vote for the winner!

The school Developing Excellence plan is a long-term strategic plan to drive improvement of the school and governors monitor the school against these priorities.

The 3 key priorities are:

1. All our pupils enjoy their learning and make at least good progress resulting in high standards
2. School is continually improving the quality of their provision for pupils, removing educational inequality, and ensuring all pupils have the same opportunity to succeed
3. All pupils are responsible, educated citizens who actively contribute to society through our curriculum provision

You will recall that we are now an Associate Member of Rose Learning Trust, and our priorities tie in with the trust's. For, each of these, are a series of actions and good progress has been made. You will have seen the school contacting you for example about parent reading volunteers, school clubs and information on curriculum topics. This year the school is once again preparing for SATS and Phonics testing. It is a requirement for the school to hold these national tests and we appreciate that they can create stresses. However, school works hard to reduce this and we want children to do well in them to build their confidence and demonstrate what they can do. It's important for all pupils to attend during these tests but if you have any concerns, then please speak to your class teacher.

Special Educational Needs (SEN)

The kinds of special educational needs that are provided for in school include: Cognition and Learning, Physical / Sensory, Social and Emotional Mental Health, Communication and Interaction. School works tirelessly to support all children and parents are invited in termly to discuss their child's progress once a plan is put into place. Parents are encouraged to contact school at any time however via phone or email to discuss any concerns they have regarding their child with their child's class teacher in the first instance or the SENcos Mrs Fletcher /Mr Medwell. Mrs Martin from the governing body supports SEN in school and meets termly with Mrs Fletcher and Mr Medwell to discuss the progress the children are making and see how their specific learning journeys are being tailored to them. At Town Field Primary School we are strong believers in the Social Model of Disability and our approach is centred on the children themselves and removing any barriers to learning. Being inclusive is something inherent throughout school.

Attendance

Governors continue to monitor attendance and are pleased that despite the many recent difficulties that overall pupils have a good attendance. We are seeing that there are several children who are absent for longer periods, and this can have a significant impact upon children's learning so we would ask that you consider this and work with school to reduce extended absences wherever possible.

Contacting the governors - If you would like to contact the school governors about a governance issue, you can contact them through the school office on: 01302 362198 or email:

admin@townfield.doncaster.sch.uk

Finally, we wish you a safe and happy Easter and hope you can enjoy some very special time with your families

