

GOVERNORS NEWSLETTER

Summer Term 2017

Dear Parents,

It has been another exceptionally busy year at Rauceby. With the end of the academic year upon us, we wanted to update you on what we have been doing to support improvement and development within school.

It has been fantastic, once again, to see the number of activities and learning opportunities that the children have been given during the last year. The Forest school activities always prove to be very popular with the children across all year groups, giving them a chance to learn outside the classroom environment. There was also the chance to show you what Forest Schools is all about in the recent campout/sleepover. There have been many events that the teachers have organised to support and enrich the national curriculum learning, the Year 1 and 2 trip to Hunstanton, Year 6's residential trip to Malham, Year 3 and 4 trip to Go Ape, Reception's trip to Woodside Wildlife Centre, Year 5's residential trip to Aylmerton and the year 5 and 6 trip to the Leicester Mosque and Ironbridge.

It has been another hectic sporting year. In our partnership with the Carre's Outreach team, we have taken part in 42 out of 46 competitions and 109 of our children have represented the school in an inter-schools competition. We are delighted that 83% of our children have been able to attend an after school sports club, a 13% increase on last year. The list of sports offered at Rauceby continues to grow: this year alone, the children have taken part in multi-skills, touchball, dodgeball, rounders, netball, volleyball, cricket, football, quicksticks hockey, gymnastics, swimming, table tennis, tennis, pop lacrosse, athletics, tag rugby and ultimate Frisbee. This would not have been possible without the significant efforts of Mrs Wilkinson as PE Subject Leader and Mrs Wood as PE Governor – thank you!

We are very fortunate at Rauceby to be able to offer an extensive range of after school clubs for the children - a huge thank you must go to the staff for providing the children with these opportunities and making the trips and all the other events happen.

We say goodbye this term to Mrs Deborah Gasson, as she steps down from her Governor role after seven years. Deborah has chaired our Curriculum and Standards Committee, and held the Literacy Governor role amongst others in her time as a governor. Mrs Charlotte Wood is also due to step down as a parent governor after four years in the role. Charlotte, in addition to taking on co-vice chair for the last two years and the EYFS Governor role, as Sports/PE Governor has championed sport within school. She has played a significant role in achieving and retaining the School Games Gold Mark. Both governors leave with our huge thanks for their tremendous support and hard work and their commitment to the governing body and to school. We will miss you!

This will create a vacancy for a parent governor – we will be holding an election and sending out all the details upon our return in September.

We have welcomed Mrs Rachel Enstone and Mrs Maxine Purvis to the governing body this year. Rachel is a solicitor with a background in family law. Rachel is a parent governor and has taken on the Safeguarding role with responsibility for Personal, Social and Health Education ("PSHE"). Maxine is an experienced primary school headteacher who has also worked as a school education adviser. She is now a Senior Lecturer at Bishop

Grosseteste University in the School of Teacher Development, the Placement Leader for undergraduate programmes and the lead for History on the BA Primary Education course. Maxine has taken on the Literacy Governor role. Both of our new governors have worked with Deborah over the last few months to effect a smooth handover.

This year we have also appointed a new Clerk to Governors, Mrs Debbie Scott. Debbie can be contacted via the school office or via clerktogovernors@rauceby.lincs.sch.uk.

As governors, we regularly review our own performance and monitor our skill set carefully. We recognise that the best governing bodies have a diverse team of governors with varied knowledge and skills who can collectively address the governance role. The role of a governor is more fully described in the "What does a governor do?" section on the school website but our three main responsibilities are:

- To ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- To hold the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and pupils, and the performance management of staff
- To oversee the financial performance of the school and making sure it is money well spent

As a governing body we undertake evaluation of both our own individual and our collective performance. We have also carried out a 360° evaluation of the chair of governors, which is updated annually. This year we have also agreed to carry out a 360° review of the governing body's performance with our key stakeholders, including the school senior leadership team, staff, parents and children. We have also carried out exit questionnaires with our current Year 6 children and their families. We hope you have received your invitation to provide your views. The governing body will meet to review the results in September and will publish both the results and our planned actions shortly afterwards.

As Governors, we have a full schedule of Governing Body meetings and meet regularly throughout the year. We continue to monitor the frequency, timing and structure of our meetings to enable the best use of our time and to support and encourage our strategic focus. We have spent time this year considering how we could further improve our structure so that we can work as effectively as possible and we are now trialling a new structure of working without committees. In conjunction with our Education Adviser, we have developed a key set of roles and responsibilities for individual governors– these will be published soon on the school website. We will be recruiting to fill some of those roles in the new academic year.

We continue to identify where additional training might be required for governors, both individually to support their specific roles, and as a group. We have identified core training to be undertaken by all Governors, of which much can be accessed online, and we now take part in governor training activities within our peer group of local primary schools.

We continue to work hard to support the school in our vision to become an outstanding school. As well as our regular meetings, the Governors have conducted a full programme of Learning Walks this year to help us monitor and evaluate the school and its' performance, which is one of our key responsibilities. These walks have been linked to the School Development Plan and this year have included visits focused on behaviour, homework, maths and literacy provision, safeguarding, gifted and talented provision and regular health and safety reviews. We will be planning the schedule for the next academic year in September.

This year, the Governing Body has continued the full overhaul and review of all school policies to ensure that we operate within the law and support best practice. Many of these policies are now or will shortly be available, for information, on the school website.

The Governors continue to explore possible sources of funding available to help improve our school. The budget remains a key focus of the governing body and in common with other schools, we face funding reductions in 2017/18. The governors scrutinise the school budget and identify alternative funding sources wherever possible and monitor costs very carefully. We are always grateful for the support the school receives from parents through both the Rauceby Gift and the tireless efforts of the PTFA.

As a Governing Body, we recognize that we have to work harder next year to be more accessible to parents and guardians. We appreciate that knowing who we are and how to contact us can be difficult. We believe that it is important that we are able to communicate with parents and guardians and that we are able to hear any concerns or comments about the school. We would welcome your views and would encourage you to make contact with us by either approaching us outside school, through the message box in the school office or via email at the following address: governors@rauceby.lincs.sch.uk. Any matter discussed will always be treated with the utmost confidence.

...And Finally

We would like to say goodbye and good luck to all our Year 6 leavers, any other children leaving the school this term, and their families. We would like to wish you all a very relaxing and enjoyable Summer holiday and look forward to welcoming you back in September.

Kindest regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Angela Naylor', written in a cursive style.

Angela Naylor
Chair of Governors on behalf of the Governing Body