

Welcome to the Summer Term edition of The Governors' News! We aim to keep you regularly updated on the work of the Governing Board.

Dear Parents and Carers,

As governors we have been welcomed to many school events and enjoyed hearing very positive feedback about the great support and atmosphere at the outdoor classroom opening, Race for Life and Summer Fête to name but a few.

Following the announcement of Mr Paul Nicholson as the new Headteacher at Gillingham Secondary School, Miss Palmer and other local primary school Heads met with him and gained a very positive impression. Mr Nicholson plans to create even stronger links between Gillingham School and its feeder schools, creating a family type unit/atmosphere.

This term Computer Science and Literacy visits have taken place at Wyke, whereby governors have met with subject coordinators to discuss how things are progressing and how needs are being met. All was well on both visits and it was evident staff have been working very hard to ensure the curriculum is delivered fully and in an interesting, varied manner. A book scrutiny is also due to be carried out to ensure everyone is working in the same way.

A special focus at school for this term is Friendship. Staff, together with the School Council, have been looking at ways to make finding companionship easier and more accessible for the children at break and lunchtimes.

Introducing...

Mrs Helen Covell – Governor

Having already served a term of office as a parent governor, Helen was pleased to be able to continue to contribute to the life of the school as a co-opted governor. She has a strong interest in the pastoral side of things and ensuring that children, parents and staff all have a recognised 'voice' and are all included in the school family.

She has enjoyed being the Parent Forum governor link and would encourage parents to consider becoming a class representative. It is an interesting role involving relaying others' questions and viewpoints and very satisfying.

Outside of her governing remit, Helen works as a supply teacher, home tutor, foster carer and gardener's mate. Besides her family, she enjoys sharing her house with two ginger-'nutter' cats. She also has a passion for Lidl Almond chocolate which she says unfortunately she isn't very good at sharing!

In August Helen and family are relocating to Cornwall, where she hopes to continue working in schools. She will be looking forward to Wyke School updates and finding out how everyone is getting on.



Community

Wyke Primary ...

- opened its door as a Polling Station on 8 June
- welcomed the local community to come along to its Summer Fête on 24 June
- is investigating installing a defibrillator for the local community's use—watch this space!

Last term we worked on...

Policies

We worked on many policies, including Attendance, Code of Conduct and Administration of Medicines – checking and updating them where necessary. This took quite some time as there are quite a few!

Budget

We looked in detail at the school budget and how money could be best spent. This included Pupil Premium (and the need to encourage parents to register where appropriate) to further enhance the children's education.

Getting to Know Classes

We listened with interest to staff presentations about Woodpecker and Kingfisher Classes which gave a useful insight into the make-up and progress of the classes.

Health and Safety

A Health and Safety audit was carried out.

Staff's Continuing Professional Development

We found out about the various courses staff had been involved with including Emotional Literacy, Assessment, Maths ('Primes & Passions'!) and Health & Safety to name but a few.

Fact File

How often and for how long do Governors meet at Wyke Primary School?

Governors meet regularly on a half termly basis for about one and a half to two hours unless an extraordinary meeting is called for an urgent matter that has arisen. A School Development Group consisting of school leaders and governors also meets regularly to discuss ways to move the school forward.

How do Governors decide what to discuss?

There is an agreed agenda put together from action plans from previous meetings together with things pertinent to the time of year, or of national implication (eg schools looking to become academies).