

MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BODY
OF RAWMARSH RYECROFT INFANTS SCHOOL HELD ON
THURSDAY 3rd SEPTEMBER 2020 AT 5.00PM

This meeting was held remotely via the Zoom application.

GOVERNORS PRESENT ONLINE:

Mr C Oxer (Chair), Mrs C Smyth (Head), Mrs K Blythe (Deputy Head),
Mr N Quhill (Vice Chair), Mr M Wagstaff, Mrs J Tate, Mr S Holmes.

Also attending: Miss N Davies (Clerk).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr S Jones and Father A Parkinson – Apologies were accepted.

Mr Jones and Father Parkinson are unable to access Zoom, however they are in contact via telephone, are provided with necessary documentation and give verbal approval where required.

2. UPDATE REGARDING THE RETURN TO SCHOOL

Mrs Smyth confirmed that herself and Mrs Blythe had been into school during the last week of the summer holidays to discuss and review the risk assessments and procedures/protocols in place for the return of staff and pupils at the start of the Autumn Term. They checked classrooms and environments within and around school to ensure all was in order.

Mrs Smyth and Mrs Blythe agreed that the first few days back at school had been successful. Children were settling well including new foundation starters. Parents were behaving in a sensible and cautious manner. On Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd September school had been closed to Year 1 and Year 2 pupils for inset days. On these days new starters and their parents (one per child) had been invited to visit school in smaller groups of 15 per session to visit the foundation classroom settings and meet foundation stage staff. Parents then attended a short socially distanced welcome meeting in the school hall. School reopened to all pupils on Thursday 3rd September. Mrs Smyth reported that this had so far been successful by implementing staggered start and finish times for each year group and by continuing to use both entrances on Main Street and South Street. With the exception of the new starter visits, parents are not accessing the school site unless absolutely necessary such as to drop off medication or attend medical training.

Visitors to school have been strictly limited and a track and trace system has been put into place. School staff sign the visitor in and collect contact details so they are available if needed if a case of COVID 19 arises in school.

Mrs Smyth confirmed two members of shielded staff had returned to work following consultation with HR and were attached to a specific class within a specific year group bubble. Relevant Risk Assessments have been shared and put into place for these two members of staff.

Mrs Smyth and Mrs Blythe are regularly reviewing procedures and have already ‘fine tuned’ the lunchtime routine.

Signed..... Date:.....

Governor Questions:

CO: How is the congestion outside school? Mrs Smyth confirmed that parents had been asked to arrive as close to their child's start time as possible. So far parents had adhered to this and staff had been able to lock the school gates in between each intake of children. Drop off and collection of siblings in different year groups has also been addressed with both children arriving and leaving together to avoid loitering outside school.

CO: What would happen if a staff member of child shows COVID 19 symptoms? Mrs Smyth confirmed protocols in place would be followed. The Risk Assessment previously shared with staff and Governors would be adhered to and the individual would be sent home and advised to immediately seek medical advice/ take a COVID 19 test and report results/ outcome back to school as soon as possible. School would seek further advice as well as following the reporting procedure. Mrs Smyth confirmed that a number of home testing kits were now in school so these could be used if required.

Governors discussed the fact that flu season will shortly be upon us and there could be confusion over flu/covid symptoms. KB suggested both schools (Ryecroft and Rosehill) should contact parents regarding this with a reminder that children who are unwell should not be sent to school. The decision should be made **before** sending them to school to see how they get on. Mr Holmes confirmed that Rosehill would be sending home any child with symptoms even if this was accompanied by another illness such as an ear infection/cold etc as no chances could be taken. Rosehill have a policy that parents are informed if a child in their class bubble is sent home with symptoms and the outcome is reported.

Governor Questions:

NQ: If a parent makes the decision to keep their child at home due to another child in their class being sent home with symptoms, is this classed as an unauthorised absence and would they be fined? Mr Holmes said that until a positive test is confirmed, children are currently still expected to remain in school.

Action: A letter is to be sent to parents to remind them of the procedures when a child is unwell.

3. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Wagstaff

Mr Wagstaff who had resigned as Governor at the end of last term has agreed to stay on as a Governor on the Ryecroft Infant School Governing Board for a short while longer. Mr Oxer thanked Mr Wagstaff for agreeing to do so and for his continuing support.

Mr Holmes

Governors welcomed Mr Holmes Headteacher of Rosehill to the Governing Board.

Signed.....

Date:.....

Mr C Oxer (Chair of Governors)

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External Boundary Wall

Mrs Smyth informed Governors that there was an issue with the external boundary wall, believed to be due to tree roots. This is not currently unsafe but is gradually worsening.

Mrs Smyth has informed the LA Buildings Manager and it has been confirmed that there is no preservation order on the tree causing the problems. School have been requested to obtain 3 quotations regarding removal of the tree and rectification of the wall. Governors were in agreement with this.

Revised Budget

Mrs Smyth confirmed that Mrs Marson is working on a revised budget and this will be sent to Governors for consideration shortly. She advised that when Breakfast Club resumes week commencing 7th September there will be additional cost implications due to additional numbers and additional staff required due to the required staff to child ratio and Covid protocols.

EHCP Plans.

Mrs Smyth confirmed that an additional two pupils in school had now been granted an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP).

Mr Wagstaff and Governors agreed that both schools had worked hard to establish a welcoming and safe environment for staff and pupils to return to and asked for thanks to be passed onto Staff. (Mrs Smyth has included this in the weekly staff briefing). Mrs Smyth thanked Governors for their continuing support especially during these unprecedented times

4. FUTURE MEETINGS

Governors discussed future meetings, in particular the Health and Safety 'Walkthrough' Meeting which is usually held during the Autumn Term. Governors were in agreement that due to current circumstances and the intention of restricting the number of adults and visitors onto the school site, that Mr Oxer as chair would visit school on an evening when pupils are not present to meet with Mrs Smyth to conduct the walkthrough. A report would then be issued to all Governors. The following meeting dates have been planned into the school diary following the usual meeting pattern and will be confirmed with Governors shortly:

Thursday 17th September 2020 5:15pm – Health & Safety Walkthrough (CS/KB/CO)

Thursday 15th October 2020 5pm – Virtual Autumn Term Meeting

Thursday 4th March 2021 5pm – Virtual Spring Term Meeting

Thursday 1st July 2020 5pm – Virtual Summer Term Meeting

Signed.....

Date:.....

Mr C Oxer (Chair of Governors)

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