

MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BOARD
OF RAWMARSH RYECROFT INFANT SCHOOL HELD VIA ZOOM ON
THURSDAY 21st JANUARY 2021 AT 5.15PM

PRESENT:

Mr C Oxe (Chair), Mr N Quhill (Vice Chair), Mrs K Blythe (Acting Head), Mr M Wagstaff, Mrs J Tate, Miss K Paisley, Mrs J Abbott

Also attending: Miss N Davies (Clerk).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr Holmes due to personal commitments.

Father Parkinson is unable to access Zoom, however he is in contact via telephone, is provided with necessary documentation and gives verbal approval where required.

Apologies received and accepted for Father A Parkinson.

2 SCHOOL UPDATE

Mrs Blythe updated Governors on current access arrangements for vulnerable and keyworker children. Children currently attending school are grouped in their year group bubbles using a specific classroom and toilets. Staff are currently working on a rota basis with one teacher from each year group teaching in school and the other teacher from each year group providing online zoom lessons from home. The school day is from 8:30am-3:00pm with staggered lunch times and break times. Children are dropped off and collected from school via three separate entrances for each year group to avoid crossing bubbles.

Mrs Blythe confirmed that school are still working to the 'Covid Secure' model risk assessment which is regularly reviewed and amendments made where necessary. Staff are provided with opportunities to give feedback and express any concerns.

Enhanced cleaning and good hygiene regimes continue to be a priority within school.

School currently have 45 vulnerable/keyworker children (approx 26% of the full school cohort) accessing provision with further requests for places in school during the past week. Mrs Blythe advised Governors that the Year 2 bubble has a larger bubble of 21 children which is becoming a concern as this is almost a full class of children. This is being closely monitored. Any parents now requesting a keyworker place are being asked to complete a request form, provide confirmation of their keyworker role from their employer and to also provide a current rota confirming their work patterns.

Signed.....

Date.....

Mr C Oxe (Chair of Governors)

School has received positive feedback from a number of parents of children who have been accessing remote learning. Three members of the Governing Board have children in school at Ryecroft and they also gave positive feedback regarding remote learning. They were particularly pleased with the online zoom lessons for children and the dance/golden time for children on Friday afternoons.

Mrs Blythe confirmed that Free School Meals Vouchers were in place and had been emailed out to parents of pupils who were eligible for FSM. There are currently 55 children in school eligible for FSM which is 32.35% of the whole school cohort.

Governor Questions/Comments

Mrs Abbott voiced her concerns regarding the lower ability/vulnerable children who are not engaging in remote learning. Mrs Blythe confirmed that these children have already been identified and teachers are in the process of contacting parents of these children. The next steps in remote learning are to look at ways to keep children interested and to look at online events to celebrate and award children's learning. School has already introduced a virtual celebration assembly.

3. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Deputy Head

Mrs Tate asked what procedures were in place if Mrs Blythe was to be absent from school as there is currently no deputy head teacher in place.

Mr Oxer and Mrs Blythe confirmed this had already been discussed briefly and as a short term solution, Mrs Sinclair a member of the SLT would be in school to address any urgent matters alongside consultation virtually with Mrs Blythe where possible or Mr Oxer. Mrs Blythe and Mr Oxer agreed that if this was to be a long term issue, the local authority would be informed.

Governors briefly discussed the possibility of resuming the head teacher recruitment process and were in agreement to monitor the current situation and resume when Governors thought it was safe to do so.

Request for Year 2 place in school.

Mrs Blythe informed Governors of an email which had been received in school on Thursday 21st January from the parent of a year 2 child requesting a place in school. Mum said she thought her child was vulnerable and that she was refusing to do any remote learning which is affecting Mum's mental health. Mum had finished the email by saying she would contact the board of governors and the Local Education Authority if she was refused a place.

Signed.....

Date.....

Mr C Oxer (Chair of Governors)

Mrs Blythe confirmed that the child in question is not classed as vulnerable and that she had replied to the parent with a number of suggestions to interest and engage the child with her learning. Mrs Blythe has also arranged for the child's class teacher to contact the child by telephone to encourage and reassure her with her learning. Mum has also been advised of the relevant services she may wish to contact regarding her mental health.

Thank you to Staff

Governors asked for their thanks to be passed on to all staff for their continued hard work in school during these difficult times.

Snow Day

Mrs Blythe asked Governors if they would give approval for staff to be paid for Friday 15th January 2021 when school was closed due to adverse weather conditions. (Heavy snowfall and ice).

Governors were in agreement that staff should be paid.

Meeting Minutes

Governors had previously been provided with minutes for the meeting held on Thursday 10th December 2021 and were asked to approve these minutes.

Governors were in agreement to approve the minutes.

4. FUTURE MEETINGS

Thursday 4th March 2021 – (Spring Term Meeting)

Thursday 1s July 2021 – (Summer Term Meeting)

Signed.....

Date.....

Mr C Oxer (Chair of Governors)