

MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BOARD
OF RAWMARSH RYECROFT INFANT SCHOOL HELD VIA ZOOM ON
THURSDAY 18th MARCH 2021 AT 5.15PM

PRESENT:

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

Also attending: Miss N Davies (Clerk).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr Holmes, Miss Paisley and Father Parkinson.

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 were received and accepted.

2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest in relation to any item on the agenda.

3 SCHOOL UPDATE

Mrs Blythe gave Governors a school update following reopening to all pupils on Monday 8th March 2021. Mrs Blythe talked Governors through the following key points:

Risk Assessments and School Reopening

- The COVID 19 Risk Assessment has been updated with slight amendments to accommodate the return of all pupils on 8th March 2021. This was discussed at the Spring Term Meeting on Thursday 4th March 2021 and is available to view on the Governors secure area of the school website.
- School is still operating within Year Group Bubbles with staggered drop off/collection times and with both entrances/gates used. Staff have noticed that the number of parents wearing face coverings has reduced. **(Mrs Blythe has already addressed this by reminding parents via her weekly update)**
- Breakfast Club is now back up and running and is also operating in Year Group Bubbles with staff members from that bubble.

Signed.....

Date.....

Mr C Oxer (Chair of Governors)

- Mrs Blythe confirmed that all loaned electronic devices (Laptops/Dongles) have now been returned to school.
- Due to the current circumstances, the annual whole school visit to the English Institute of Sport (EIS) has been postponed until next year. In house events such as 'Picture this!' will still go ahead, however the arrangements will be amended to ensure safety of all involved.

Attendance:

- The whole school attendance since the return on Monday 8th March is 96.7%. Although this is slightly lower than before the school closure on 5th January, school are being diligent in ensuring any children showing signs of symptoms are sent home immediately and asked to be tested.
- Mrs Blythe confirmed that children are contacted on the first day of absence to obtain a reason for this and if the parents are uncontactable a doorstep safe and well visit is carried out. Mrs Blythe said she had conducted a safe and well visit on the day of the meeting.
- As of Thursday 18th March, a total of 19 children have been absent from school due to COVID symptoms and have been tested. 11 children have received negative results and the other 8 children are currently awaiting results. **(All these children have since received negative results).**

Staffing Matters:

- All staff are continuing to take part in Lateral Flow Testing twice weekly.
- There is one Year 1 member of staff currently shielding and there has been one incident of staff absence due to dental issues where emergency treatment was required. Cover for these members of staff has been carried out in house as school continue to limit the number of adults on the school premises.
- Mrs Blythe said that the two newly appointed Teaching Assistants were settling in well and would both be working in FS2 (One is currently supporting Year 1 due to the member of staff who is currently absent due to shielding).
- Mental Health and Wellbeing continues to be a focus for staff in school with Mrs Blythe operating an open door policy for staff to raise any concerns or issues they may be experiencing. Regular socially distanced or virtual meetings are also held with staff to iron out any problems.

Pupil Matters:

- Mental Health and Wellbeing is also the main focus for children in school. Mrs Blythe confirmed that children had settled back into school well with just the odd tears from a few children. Although children are in their Year Group Bubbles, school have invested in a number of webcams for classrooms so children can still be together virtually for assemblies and celebrations in school.

Signed.....

Date.....

Mr C Oxer (Chair of Governors)

- Mrs Blythe advised that one pupil has recently moved school due to moving house and a new pupil has started in Year 1.
- Planning for Progress Meetings will be taking place next week and interventions planned where required. Pupils, who have attended school through key worker /vulnerable provision during lockdown, have done well with most of these children where they are expected to be for this point in the academic year.
- For children who are eligible for Free School Meals (Pupil Premium Funding), a voucher system will again be in place over the Easter Holidays.
- Parents Evenings are taking place this week via telephone calls

Overall, Mrs Blythe was very pleased that the reopening of school so far had been very positive.

Governors Questions & Comments:

Both Parent Governors felt that their children had settled back in well and seemed happy to be back with their friends.

A Parent Governor had also noticed that not all parents socially distance and wear masks. A question was raised as to why the playground is not used for parents to drop off/collect children as this could avoid queuing outside –**Mrs Blythe said children are moving around school at these times and due to the staggered start times and different entrances used, this would be difficult to accommodate to ensure bubbles did not cross over and mix. Mrs Blythe regularly reminds parents of the importance of socially distancing and wearing face coverings via Class Dojo and her weekly parent updates. Parents have again been reminded this week.**

A Parent Governor said they had overheard a comment made by another parent regarding poor communications from school (Too much communication). **School currently use a number of ways such as Text Message, Email, Class Dojo and the School Website to communicate with and reach all parents/carers so everyone has access to the important information and school updates during the current COVID 19 pandemic.**

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Governors expressed their thanks to Mrs Blythe and all staff in school for their continuing hard work to ensure school is a safe and welcoming environment for children during these difficult times.

Signed.....

Date.....

Mr C Oxer (Chair of Governors)

5. **GOVERNING BODY MINUTES**

Prior to the meeting, Governors had been provided with minutes for the virtual Spring Term Meeting held on Thursday 4th March 2021.

Governors were in agreement that the minutes be approved.

6. **FUTURE MEETINGS**

Monday 29th March 2021 at 3:30pm (Recruitment Panel Meeting rearranged)

Thursday 15th April 2021 at 5:15pm (Full GB Meeting re Head teacher Recruitment)

Thursday 1st July 2021 at 5:15pm (Summer Term Meeting)

Signed.....

Date.....

Mr C Oxer (Chair of Governors)