



Merry Christmas



Governors' Newsletter December 2015

Dear Parents and Carers

As we come to the end of a busy term at Robertswood I would like to share with you what the governors have been doing and our plans for the future.

The governors continue to be regular visitors to the school and it is a privilege to visit classrooms to watch learning taking place and see the energy and enthusiasm of the pupils. It is also impressive to see the dedication and commitment of the teachers who work tirelessly to provide the very best for our children. This is further borne out by recent published results which paint a picture of strong progress and achievement across the school.

The introduction of new assessment criteria has been one of the biggest changes in primary education in recent years. However the new approach, using 'I can' statements, is now successfully embedded at Robertswood and is being used to help all children to make good progress.

In September we welcomed Penny Ford to the governing body and we value the insight into the working of the school that she brings to our meetings. At our December meeting we were pleased to welcome Elaine Pope and Natalie Timotheou following their election as parent governors and we look forward to working together.

One of the roles of the Governing Body is to ensure that the school's income is used effectively to support teaching, learning and the health and safety of our children. At their November meeting, the Finance committee agreed to fund an upgrade of the school's broadband, two additional Learning Support Assistants and refurbishment of the Nursery.

In January the governors and the senior leadership team will be meeting for a morning to plan how we can work together to build on Robertswood's strengths and help the school to continue to move forward. In doing this it is important for us take into account the views of parents as well as those of the staff and pupils. We would therefore like to extend special thanks to those parents who shared their opinions with us through the Parent's Survey and those who spared the time to chat to governors at the Parents' Consultation Evenings in October. It was really helpful for us to hear your views.

The overwhelming message that came across at the Parents' Evenings is that Robertswood is a happy school and this was borne out in the Parents' Survey where 100% of those who responded said their child is happy at school. In the survey parents said that their top three aspirations for their children are

- to fulfil their potential
- to achieve well and make good progress
- to be happy and secure

These aspirations will be at the top of the agenda for our planning meeting.

At the end of this term we say goodbye to Sophie Cattell. We thank her for her contribution to the life of Robertswood and wish her well for the future. We would also like to say a big 'thank you' to the staff for all their hard work this term and wish everyone a happy and peaceful Christmas.

Erica Penman

Erica Penman, Chair of Governors