



# Merry Christmas



Governors' Newsletter December 2016

Dear Parents and Carers

As another busy term at Robertswood draws to a close I hope you and your children have enjoyed all the Christmas activities, the performances, the carol singing and, of course, the Christmas Fair which raised a fantastic £6082 for school funds.

One of the key roles of the governing body is to work with Mr Richings and the Senior Leadership Team to ensure that all the children develop to their full potential and we monitor this through visits to the school and through Mr Richings' reports. 2015-16 was a very good year for Robertswood. The year 6 Maths test results and the year 1 and 2 Phonics results were the best ever. Children in Reception also made extremely good progress in their first year at full time school, really setting them up for the future. As well as our own assessment of the children's progress, the school receives an annual visit from our School Improvement Advisor (SIA), appointed by Bucks Learning Trust. The SIA visit in November was very positive, corroborating the school's Self Evaluation. In her report the SIA commented on the pupils' good behaviour and attitude to learning and it is this, combined with the constant drive for improvement in teaching and learning that enable the school to improve year on year.

The governors also work with Mr Richings and his team to ensure that the physical environment of the school is well maintained and we are very pleased that phase 1 of the Nursery refurbishment will take place during the Christmas holidays. This has been funded by grants from the LEA and the Chalfont St Peter Feast Day. Phase 2 of the project is scheduled for the Easter break.

Ensuring that the school fulfils the requirements of the Keeping Children Safe in Education Act is the responsibility of the governors and one we take very seriously. This term we have been focussing on e-Safety. We hear about child abuse daily in the media and it is widely recognised that one of the greatest threats to our children today is through mobile phones and the internet. At school the children are taught about keeping themselves safe online, however, it is essential that parents also keep up to date with the rapid changes in technology in order that they can reinforce the messages from school. Children are accessing the internet from a very early age so it is never too early to start educating them about how to keep themselves safe. I would highly recommend all parents to attend the e-safety information meeting which Mr Richings will run next year. In the meantime, I would urge you to take some time over the Christmas break to look at some of the sites below and discuss the content with your children.

The Robertswood Star Values underpin the school's vision to develop children who are equipped with the necessary skills, knowledge and understanding to become caring, confident and successful individuals. At the Consultation evenings in October we were pleased to hear from several parents who have children in year 7 or 8 who told us that the independence and confidence that their children developed at Robertswood has led to a successful transition to secondary school. We should also like to congratulate former Robertswood pupils Dennis Walker, Harvey Wonnacott and Gemma Rolfe who have been elected as Head Boy, Deputy Head Boy and Head Girl for Year 7 at the Chalfonts Community College.

Finally, we would like to say a big 'thank you' to the staff for all their hard work this term and to all the parents who support the school in so many ways, running and coaching Robertswood Rangers, hearing the children read, helping with the Book Club and the PTA. I hope you all have a very happy Christmas.

*Erica Penman*

Erica Penman, Chair of Governors

Sites regarding e-safety for children

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

<https://ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>