

# Rownhams St John's Governor Newsletter

Spring 2018



Hello and welcome to the Spring newsletter from the Governors at Rownhams St John's Primary School. This time we find out about new parent governor Ben Hogbin and the role of governors when Ofsted come to visit.

We hope this will enlighten you more about who we are and what we do for the school.

## Who's who?

**Who:** Ben Hogbin

**Role:** Parent Governor on Resources Committee

**Service:** Only 2 months, but in that time I've attended 1 Full Governing Body meeting, 1 team building training evening, 1 full-day induction training and 2 tours of the school!

**Why did you become a governor?** I wanted to give something back to the school that has given so much to both my family and me. I attended the school over two decades ago with my sister, who has since become a teacher here, and in addition to this, my daughter is in Y1 and my son will hopefully be starting in a few years.

**Likes:** When I'm not out training for the London Marathon, I can be found with my family at Paultons Park or with friends on the golf course.



## Governors' Diary



### January:

23<sup>rd</sup> – Standards

### February

7<sup>th</sup> – Full Governors

22<sup>nd</sup> – Pay & Personnel

28<sup>th</sup> – Team Building Training

### March

7<sup>th</sup> – Foundation

14<sup>th</sup> – Resources

22<sup>nd</sup> – Standards

27<sup>th</sup> – Full Governors

## When 'special visitors' come to call...

Ofsted, a word that seems to strike dread in anyone in the education profession. Really, they do a valuable job making sure that schools are delivering the best education for the children in their care, a lot like governors do in fact. However, governors don't teach in classes nor do we work at the school, so where do we fit in to all of this. Well, since the last Ofsted visit, nearly 5 years ago to the week, we have been working with the school to make sure that we are delivering the best education for the children that we can. In particular, any elements mentioned in the report need to be focused on to make sure they are achieved alongside any other improvements that are put in place.

So, the day before Ofsted arrive they call the school around lunchtime to say they are on their way the next day. This is so that the inspector gets to see the school 'as it is' as far as possible. The governors are then informed, because the inspector will want to talk to us too because we are as much part of the leadership team of the school as the headteacher, deputy or subject leads. That evening, some of us came in to help out before the visit and to encourage staff, reassuring them how good a place the school is in. On the day, some of us attended the coffee morning and then around lunchtime the inspector interviewed 3 of us for half an hour. This session was to assess whether we know what the strengths and weaknesses of the school are; if we know how Pupil Premium money is being spent and whether it is making an impact; and whether we know how the school is ensuring children are safe and how we play our part in that. After the inspection, two of us came in again for a final feedback session with the inspector around 5:30 where she gave us a provisional grade. This has to be kept under wraps until it has been confirmed by Ofsted. Once confirmed, the letter comes back to the school and you received it last week. So, congratulations to all who played their part (children, staff, parents, governors) in making our school amazing so that on February 1<sup>st</sup> Ofsted were able to see the outcome of all the hard work that everyone has put in since the last time they came. Well done!



That's about it for this time. So, until the next one of these, Happy Easter!  
Hope you all have a great term.

The Governors

