

# Governors Newsletter Autumn 2016

## Welcome from the Chair of Governors Josie Elson

As Chair of the Ravensbury Board of Governors I am delighted to welcome you to our first 'Governor Newsletter', the purpose of which is to report to you on the work we are doing within the school and its impact. We aim to publish one newsletter at the start of each term, providing you with a summary of our key activities during the previous term, and information about our priorities for the following term.

I joined the Ravensbury Board of Governors in 2012 after volunteering to become a Local Authority governor. I work as Assistant HR Director at Manchester Metropolitan University and

so was delighted to be asked to join the board of a school right in the heart of the city. After serving on the Resources Committee for a couple of years I was appointed as Deputy Chair.

Last year I took over the role of Chair temporarily from Ian Tideswell. Ian had done a fantastic job as Chair, and I would like to thank him for all his support and advice. I am delighted to have been re-appointed as Chair and my aim is to ensure a caring partnership between the School, Parents, carers and Governors based on trust and a shared understanding.

We are all immensely proud of our place in the commu-

nity and of our school's inclusive nature. We hope that you feel the same. If you have any comments, questions or concerns that you wish to share with me please contact me via the school office.

I look forward to another successful and productive year at Ravensbury!



### Governors List

- Josie Elson \_ Chair
- Chris Ibbott—Vice Chair
- Karen Jarmany -LA Governor
- Jo Wendt -Staff Governor
- Adam Holmes - Parent Governor
- Ian Tideswell—Community Governor
- Tom Williams Community Governor
- Andrea Andrews Community Governor
- Diane Fish—Staff Governor
- Nicola Richardson—Staff Governor
- Shamiaa Ali—Parent governor

### Special points of interest:

- The school will be looking at changing the schools website to make it more user friendly
- Looking at the school playground to enhance the provision.
- Looking at changing the school logo

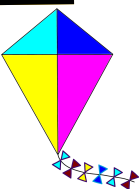
## What Governors Do

School Governors now play an increasingly significant role in the running of schools. We feel it's a huge privilege to serve the school, and play our part in ensuring the children at Ravensbury receive the education they deserve. School governing bodies are made

up of volunteers who are responsible for working with the school to ensure that it delivers a good quality education. Individual governors bring a range of experience to the group, drawing on their own professional expertise and often their knowledge of the school as

parents or as part of the local community.

We work closely with the head teacher, Ms. Foord and her senior leadership team, and focus on three core functions:



## What Governors Do ??

1. Setting the school's strategic direction and priorities, and ensure all statutory duties are met.
2. Acting as a 'critical friend,' supporting the head teacher and holding her to account for the school's day-to-day running.
3. Overseeing the school's financial performance and ensure the budget is well spent.

Governors don't get involved in the everyday operation of the school;

that is in hands of Ms. Foord and her Senior Leadership Team. Our role is mainly to help shape the strategic direction and priorities of the school, and help drive those priorities forward. We meet as a whole Governing Body several times a year. In addition to this, two sub-committees meet and each has a particular focus on different areas of school life:

1. **Achievement and Inclusion**
2. **Resources**

Much of the work is done in these committees, and each one will meet once or twice per term. In addition to these meetings, some of us also have roles to oversee different aspects of school life (e.g. Safeguarding, Health and Safety, and Special Educational Needs). The work of the Board of Governors helps ensure that staff can get on with doing what they do best - educating our pupils to a high standard but at the same time creating time, space and

## Achievements 2015-2016

There have been lots of change to SATs this year and we are very proud that more children at Ravensbury have achieved the new expected standard than in schools nationally.

We are above the national average for reading, writing and mathematics. We would like to thank all staff, pupils and par-

ents for their hard work and support this year. **WELL DONE!**

Children in the Foundation Stage have also made really good progress and at the end of the last school year 67% achieved a good level of development.

Tests and assessments results are some of the ways that the success of our school is measured. At Ravensbury governors greatly value every child's achievements which are developed through a wide range of opportunities and activities such as art, drama, music and sport.

## Key Priorities 2016-2017

This academic year the governors will be focusing on the how well the school is doing on the following areas of the school improvement plan:

- Writing—particularly which the school is doing to close gaps in attainment between

boys and girls

- What the school is doing to improve teaching in particular how the school is strengthening creativity and children's engagement with learning.

As governors we will work to improve our contributions to the school by regularly reviewing how we work and making sure that we have the skills that the school needs from us.

## Getting Reading Right!!

Governors are very proud of the great strides the school has made with regard to reading. Following her recent visit to school to look at reading in action in all classes, Karen Jarmany our reading governor reported back to the governing body:

- The school has created a real love of reading
- Children were able to talk very confidently about what progress they had made during the year.
- Children gave expert demonstrations on their use of the Lexia programme.
- Practical phonic sessions were taking place as well as guided reading, paired reading and whole class discussion about novels being studied.
- Vibrant reading displays were evident across the whole school
- Children in the Foundation

Stage were learning about how books work

The morning spent in school provided a really insight into the strength of reading provision from the Early Years up to Year 6.

Your reading at home with your children makes all the difference and they told us this. **Keep up the good work!**

We have spent a lot on books and it is great to see the children learning from them and enjoying them.

## Reading in Action



The children really enjoy winning rewards for their reading, these include visits and fantastic reading teddies you can see here

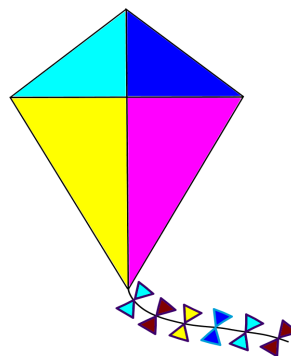
## Supporting the school's vision and ethos

Like you we have contributed to discussions on the school's ethos and vision for Ravensbury. All our work this year will be following the themes of the school's ethos:

- We create ...
- We explore ...
- We care ...
- We soar ...

Everything that we do this year will come back to these 4 areas.

This is the first edition of the governors newsletter. We hope you have found it interesting and useful, if you would like to contact governors please contact the school office.



- We create ...
- We explore ...
- We care ...
- We soar ...