

**Cromer Junior School
Full Governing Board Meeting
Wednesday 16th June 2021 at 6pm**

Present: John Simpson (Chair), John Wollocombe (Link Trustee), Amy Thompson, John Sansby (Vice-Chair), Angela Bullock

John Wollocombe will not be moving onto the new trust.

The Chair welcomed LC and RP, and commented that it was very helpful for Governors to see Subject Leader presentations.

Subject Leader Presentations:

RP (RSE)

RP explained the new guidelines and legislation which became statutory in Primary Schools last September and the areas which had to be prioritised this year.

The Chair thanked RP for his very useful presentation. AB asked whether the school had a Mental Health Champion, our Emotional Support Professional steps into that role. JW asked about what the challenges have been to put RSE into place, RP replied that momentum was lost due to lockdown, but felt that finally we were in a place to put everything into action, certainly from September, make sure that we try to keep a weekly slot for each year group. RP was concerned how the parents would react, but the response from the survey which was sent out to parents was very positive. AT commented that we are trying to fill those gaps due to lockdown and had to really look at subjects to see which ones would be suitable for remote learning and those better suited to the classroom. AT added that parents also expect that we will cover puberty in school.

L C (Science)

LC explained our Curriculum Statement. Skills is a major part of the new OFSTED guidelines.

Emotional Wellbeing: Chemistry and Biology could explore medicine, understand how they are feeling.

LC explained the 'Catch one Partner' procedure which is used in Science, good for covering definitions and for the children to recall.

LC explained to Governors that we are using Google Forms (as quizzes) as a form of assessment, a very weak writer may be very knowledgeable about Science and do very well. Children really enjoy the quizzes.

Unfortunately STEM week hasn't been able to happen this year. Children would usually move around classes carrying out different experiments.

Science is to be a core subject, should have a weekly timetable slot and appears on the End of Year Reports, hopefully raising the profile of Science again. The whole idea of sequencing and connecting learning, teachers are more focussed on this, we also have the timeline in the hall, may take a time to embed, but is part and parcel of the teachers role now. AT children are naturally more aware of what they are doing, with the quizzes we have immediate feedback to give to children (for foundation subjects).

The Chair thanked LC for her presentation, commenting that it was very nice to see keen and enthusiastic teachers.

1. Apologies

Adrian Woods

2. Minutes of Meeting Wednesday 10th March

Agreed.

3. Matters arising

JW asked how the budgetary process had gone for Cromer Junior School.

WdN replied that from a Headteacher point of view, he would rate this as low as we haven't felt that we've had a firm grip on our budget. Budget monitoring had been very difficult due to the paperwork. WdN missed having budget revisions, which drives the strategies in school, as priorities can change throughout the year. Hopefully this will be put right by moving over to STAR, which is much more practical for running a school budget over the year. The Chair commented that figures were often wrong had to be taken away to be changed. Governors should be able to have the input to be able to support finance decisions. The Chair commented that Staff Costs are the main issue, which have to be planned months ahead.

WdN suggested having a budget review 3 times a year. JW commented that with Synergy, there will be a dedicated budget officer for each school, he hoped that we could have somebody there who will support the process.

4. Safeguarding Report

Circulated Antingham and Southrepps Compliance Checklist. We have used the old LA checklist, whilst some of the processes are incorporated in other policies, we are Safeguarding Compliant.

5. RSHE Draft Policy

Governors agreed policy for the website.

6. Budget for the next financial year.

Figures show a surplus in each year, including year 3. Once again income figures are not inflated, however expense figures are not, so this is worst case scenario. Pupil numbers are not as low as we initially thought they would be. We have not made any substantial changes.

Governors are happy to agree the budget going forward.

7. Safety Walk

WdN and Chair completed a walk round the school, a few issues were picked up, drains which need covers. WdN did a similar walk with the Business Manager for the Trust, she will address these issues, including the grounds. The Chair commented that we would need to repair the bike sheds and playground in the long term. A safety inspection has been undertaken and actions have been taken.

8. Health & Safety Policy

Has been added to updating it to be COVID compliant

9. Headteachers Report

SATS tests (in house) were carried out in Y6, results felt okay.

Gaps with writing particularly in Year 3. Writing was the area which suffered due to the lockdown, felt shaky in Year 6 since coming back.

Sports day will be carried out in bubbles, without parents.

Transition – We thought we would be having induction days, but the Academy cancelled the days for Year 6. Year 2 will come here for about an hour, for an assembly. We will be inviting Y2 parents the evening before for a tour of the school with their child. The more vulnerable children will have more opportunity for transitional visits.

The Academy are running a Summer School for Year 6 going to Year 7. More vulnerable Y6 will be able to go to the Academy for an hour.

Teachers will visit their new classes so that children can ask questions.

Quizzes will be available by Christmas for all topics and a tracking system will be in place to run from September.

We will be changing the timetable slightly, WdN explained with one afternoon science lesson each week. This will make Curriculum Monitoring easier for Subject Leaders and will be better for OFSTED.

Recruitment

Emotional Support Professional post has been advertised.

Reading strategies presented by EH, has been received positively by teachers and the children are really enjoying it.

Maths and English Leads are heavily involved with Synergy Leads. WdN meets regularly with Richard Lord.

WdN went to attendance training which was very useful and we have contact with the LA on a regular basis. AB asked whether the Vulnerable Pupil tracker was useful? WdN replied that yes it had been in terms of putting us in touch with our attendance officer.

WdN ran through Pupil Attainment. Teachers will be meeting for Writing Moderation with other Synergy Schools before the end of the summer term.

The Base continues to run very well.

WdN met with NCC, NNAT and Synergy concerning ICT today.

AB asked about staff well-being. AT replied that we are hoping that everything will be back to normal in September. It has been a tough couple of years, we are having to operate phased lunchtimes and playtimes, which has been difficult, along with bubbles.

JW advised of the latest position with Synergy, everything is on track for 1st September. Trustees are now attending Synergy Board Meetings, this is good progress. WdN commented that it felt like everything has been done sensibly, not nervous about the move.

11. AOB

None

12. Date of next meeting

Suggested as Wednesday 15th September at 6pm.

The Chair thanked the staff, on behalf of the Governors, for all their work this year.

Meeting Closed: 8pm

Signed:

Date: