

DOWNVIEW SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY

**GOVERNORS
OPEN DAY
REPORT 2013**

19TH March 2013

CONTENTS

1. Introduction
2. *Governors Report*
3. Questions and Answers
4. Copy of letter sent to all staff and children

INTRODUCTION

Every year in March, Downview School holds its *Governors Open Morning*. During our time in the school we visit every single class and attend any school assemblies.

Just like our individual governor visits, the *Governors Open Day* has a focus and the focus is linked to the *School Improvement Plan*. This year our focus was on Reading but we also wanted to ask some of the children four questions. The four questions we asked were:

- ◆ What have you been learning about recently in your class?
- ◆ What are you good at?
- ◆ How do you know you are good at it?
- ◆ If you could change one thing about our school what would it be?

We would like to emphasize that a small random sample of children were asked the same 4 questions, the governors recognise that these are individual children's opinions on the day and may not necessarily be representative of the school as a whole.

The *Governors* had a pleasurable and enjoyable morning and we would like to thank all the staff and children for welcoming us into their classrooms. We would particularly like to thank all the children who kindly agreed to chat with us and answer our questions. They were all very polite, open and honest with their answers. A delight to talk to.

Governors Report

We started off our morning by visiting Years two and three. Year three were split into five groups for their Book Club. One group was supervised by their teacher; three groups were supervised by TA's and a group who were working on their own. These groups are rotated. The children told us they read the book three times they thought the first time was to understand it, they couldn't remember what the second time was for but the third time was to remember it. The children in year three really enjoyed having their Book Club.

When chatting to the children in year three we decided to sit in the book corner as we thought that as we were focusing on reading this would be an apt place to sit. We were discussing various things and one of the children was able to show me without any hesitation where Calgary was on the globe and how to fly there.

In Year 2 the children were also reading in groups, supervised by the teacher and the TA's. The groups were organized in reading ability. I spent my time reading with 3 individuals of differing ability. The first was unable to read until 4 weeks before the visit. He was brilliant! Really keen and excited just to be able to read to me and tackled, what I thought were difficult words by using the strategies that he had been taught. He was clearly relishing his new found world of books. The other two children were more able readers tackling harder books but they were equally enjoying their reading - overall it was a very enjoyable lesson.

We then went onto visit years five and six. Year six were spending time reading and annotating various types of literature as they were planning to write a speech using persuasive text. The children were planning to show their parents their speeches on Parents Evening. They were working in mixed ability groups, some with a teacher, some with a TA and some on their own. The theme of their speech was what they should be allowed to do on their birthdays i.e. if they should be allowed the day off school or just as they do now come to school in non school uniform. Or, maybe they should be allowed to do something else on their birthdays.

We visited both Year 5 groups; one was working on their mental maths albeit using their individual white boards. The children were seated on the floor around their teacher who was asking questions around the class. The children were attentive and were learning from each other as well as the teacher. In the other class the children were working in groups on their maths also. Working in

groups of similar ability they were demonstrating collaborative and independent learning.

Having visited four year groups it was time for assembly and the governors visited the KS1 assembly. This was being run by two teachers. The assembly started off by giving out awards for children who had done a lot of reading and then to children whom had got their various stars for the number of house points. A birthday cake was then brought out and children with birthdays on that day were called up to the front. There were quite a lot of them, they all blew out the candles in the cake in unison.

One of the teachers, with the help of the Year two children told the story of Palm Sunday. She told the story whilst the children acted it out. The palms the children used were made by themselves prior to the assembly and they were going to take them home.

After assembly we visited reception, years one and four. The group of children that talked to us had just had a guided reading session before break and assembly. They told us that the book they had been reading was about Rockets and how to build them. They were all very chatty about the excitements of the day as it was Mrs Holloway's 40th birthday.

In all the year groups we visited the atmosphere was buzzing. Lots of happy children concentrating on their learning and enjoying their learning. They were all happy for us to go into their classrooms and talk to them. All the children we spoke to were very polite, and open and honest with their responses to our questions.

Questions and Answers

We asked all year groups the same four questions and we got some very honest and sometimes amusing answers!

Reception:

Q1. What have you been learning about recently in your class?

- ◆ Owls
- ◆ The Gruffalo and also bear hunt
- ◆ Easter

Q2. What are you good at?

- ◆ Reading
- ◆ Easter egg Hunts
- ◆ Riding my two wheeled scooter
- ◆ Riding my bike
- ◆ Helping my sister to find the orange eggs at my Grandmas Easter Egg Hunt

Q3. How do you know you are good at it?

- ◆ As we are really clever
- ◆ I get stickers

Q4. If you could change one thing about our school what would it be?

- ◆ You can wear whatever you want
- ◆ Not getting told off

Year 1:

Q1. What have you been learning about recently in your class?

- ◆ The jolly postman - we wrote a story about it, who he visited including a fox
- ◆ All the people in it

Q2. What are you good at?

- ◆ Drawing nice pictures
- ◆ Doing the work
- ◆ Reading

Q3. How do you know you are good at it?

- ◆ Because my daddy shows me how to draw
- ◆ I do it straight away
- ◆ Because I read lots of books - Kipper Books

Q4. If you could change one thing about our school what would it be?

- ◆ I would have Lego
- ◆ I would Play with Mr. Martin

Year 2:

Q1. What have you been learning about recently in your class?

- ◆ Reading books. My favorite books.
- ◆ ITC - playing games and painting
- ◆ London
- ◆ Happy and healthy
- ◆ World War 1
- ◆ Florence Nightingale

Q2. What are you good at?

- ◆ Being a helicopter
- ◆ Everything!

- ◆ Painting a rainbow, I know all the colours
- ◆ Music
- ◆ Math's

Q3. How do you know you are good at it?

- ◆ Because I have a new book, it's my purple book
- ◆ I do more math's than everyone else
- ◆ I tried my hardest and I can now do it
- ◆ I get badges as reward when I get it right

Q4. If you could change one thing about our school what would it be?

- ◆ New toys
- ◆ A baby badger because they are very cute
- ◆ I don't know everything is perfect :0)

Year 3:

Q1. What have you been learning about recently in your class?

- ◆ Australian animals
- ◆ Painting Australian animals
- ◆ Round the world topic - different countries
- ◆ Making up your own map going round the world and using you own symbols that you have made up.
- ◆ Wombat goes walkabout book

Q2. What are you good at?

- ◆ Literacy and writing
- ◆ Art
- ◆ Maths, I do my times tables at home - 12,13 and 15 and I do the maths challenge in the newspaper
- ◆ Geography

Q3. How do you know you are good at it?

- ◆ I am good at literacy because I have been doing it for a long time
- ◆ I find maths easy and I do a lot of maths
- ◆ I am good at Geography because I know a lot of countries in the world and I know what language they speak in some of the countries
- ◆ Don't know why I am good at maths
- ◆ I am good at maths cos I just know I am

Q4. If you could change one thing about our school what would it be?

- ◆ Maybe they could connect some of the classes to the other ones as when you are in Years 5 and 6 and you have to go to assembly or PE in the rain you get wet
- ◆ Year 1 classes are a bit small and it would be good if they could be made bigger
- ◆ Doing 5 and 7 times tables

Year 5:

Q1. What have you been learning about recently in your class?

- ◆ Sounds in our literacy lesson
- ◆ Facts about sounds
- ◆ Our ear drums and how we hear sounds
- ◆ Light and sounds - I'm really enjoying it
- ◆ Maths, fractions and Division

Q2. What are you good at?

- ◆ Maths
- ◆ Number lines and division

Q3. How do you know you are good at it?

- ◆ Because I get the questions right
- ◆ We have teachers comments and ticks in our work books

Q4. If you could change one thing about our school what would it be?

- ◆ Longer play times
- ◆ Make maths better by making it harder

Year 6:

Q1. What have you been learning about recently in your class?

- ◆ Varmints Book
- ◆ Persuasive writing
- ◆ Letters of complaint to a group of characters in the Varmints story
- ◆ Planted seeds such as cress, grass and sunflower to represent wilderness
- ◆ Ratio and proportion in maths
- ◆ SPAG - we did a test before half term we were quite confident as we have been doing a lot of practice

Q2. What are you good at?

- ◆ Maths, writing and PE
- ◆ Swimming
- ◆ Having fun
- ◆ Quite good at art and maths
- ◆ Speaking in front of people, reading, SPAG and maths also tennis, understanding other people's feelings and knowing if there is something wrong

Q3. How do you know you are good at it?

- ◆ We are put in groups and I am level 5 which is next to top group

- ◆ I am confident in doing them
- ◆ I got my pen license for writing
- ◆ In Year 5 I went to Future Flyers
- ◆ I must be good at PE as I have represented the school for netball and football and I am in the first team. I also play football for Felpham Colts Football Club
- ◆ I know I am good at art and swimming as I do quite a lot of art at home and do things outside rather than in school. I have gone as far as I can go in swimming and have even tried snorkeling.
- ◆ I know I am good at speaking as I have been elected by other classmates to be involved in a debate. I won the debate. I know through my test results that I am good at maths etc. I also know I am good at understanding other people's feelings as I have classmates that can talk openly to me.

Q4. If you could change one thing about our school what would it be?

- ◆ The lights in our classroom as they are not good they flicker a lot.
- ◆ Would like to get rid of the huts as they get quite cold.
- ◆ Would like to be able to use the library more as feel we don't get much chance to go there.
- ◆ Mix more with different classes and younger year groups so that younger children know what it's like to be in the higher year groups and this would help them for moving on.

One special quote from a Year 6 child was "Downview has been really good this year for PE because lessons are inclusive for everyone and if there is something I find hard or tricky it will be adapted to meet my needs".



**GOVERNING BODY OF
DOWNVIEW PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**Wroxham Way
Felpham, Bognor Regis
West Sussex PO22 8ER
Tel: 01243 820511
Fax: 01243 833549**

Email: office@downview.w-sussex.sch.uk

**Headteacher: Mrs Mandy Williams
Chair of Governors: Mrs Sue Hawthorn
Clerk to Governors: Mrs Janet Ramsdale**

20th March 2013

All Members of Staff,
Downview School

Dear All,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Governing Body of Downview School to say a tremendous thank you for allowing us to visit your classrooms yesterday.

As usual, we were made to feel very welcome in every class we visited and we thought the atmosphere of the school was happy and hardworking. The children appeared to be enjoying their lessons. We had a lovely morning.

Please pass on our thanks to all the children, particularly those who were kind enough to answer our questions and chat to us. They were all very polite, open and honest and a delight to talk to.

Kind regards

Sue Hawthorn
Chair of Governors

