

Duncton Parish Annual meeting

Thank you once again for inviting me to join you at your annual meeting. I am joined this year by our chair of Governors for both Schools, Marie Bracey.

Both Duncton and Graffham Schools continue to thrive and we currently have 64 children at Duncton, with 51 at Graffham.

Thank you to the Parish Council for their generous donation which has paid for Peer Mediation training at Duncton, to support children in the playground.

As I talked about last year, we are working very hard to ensure that our budgets balance in a dreadful climate of school cuts nationally. We have managed to balance this year's budget at both school's but we are still working hard to minimise costs but focus on excellence in all that we do. The Governing Body and Leadership team are working to develop fundraising strategies and are keen to hear from anyone wishing to support the school in any way- large or small. We have a Facebook page, School lottery and now a fundraising online platform which will help us too. We know also that this is only the beginning of further cuts for all state schools, so we will be looking for creative ways to support our schools. You may also have seen our Facebook post about the WSCC consultation regarding small schools; so if you are able to reply to this, please do. I think the parish council is putting together a reply- the deadline is this week.

Our child led ethos goes from strength to strength; we listen to what our children are interested in and their interests lead our learning across the Federation. Our Forest School experiences are as exciting as ever- from minus temperatures to time in boiling sunshine with the bluebells! We have also created a new outside Maths kitchen- where children are experimenting with practical maths applications, thinking about their maths in the outdoors and learning about measurement, and completing word problems using practical applications to help them.

This year we have some annual events that we would like to invite our community to:

Tomorrow afternoon, we are planning a very relaxed Party to celebrate Duncton School being 50 years old- it was opened on June 19th 1968. Everyone is welcome; you can come along and see what the children are working on, have a look round the school, listen to music that the children have been learning, and enjoy a cream tea with us.

Also, do come along to our Summer Performance, which is held on Duncton field on Friday July 6th at 5.30, this year with an environmental theme of the impact of plastics worldwide and what we can do to reduce these. It will partly be a film festival, and our children will be working with a parent who is a filmmaker to produce short films that will be shown amongst their drama, dance and music throughout the evening.

Lastly, for residents close to the school- it is our annual Summer Camp this Friday, so we are all in tents on the school field- always an amazing night of no sleep, and much fun by everyone!!

Thank you for welcoming Marie and I to this meeting tonight; do join our Facebook page 'Friends of Graffham and Duncton' to hear more about what we are doing. We now have a Total Fundraising site, which can be accessed through our Facebook page, or by searching for us on the Total Fundraising site; this gives all members of the school community the opportunity to give money to the schools if they so wish. Currently, our fundraising is to improve our outdoor areas at school, the running of our minibus, and to improve the resources in school, such as high quality books.

Helen Martin, Head Teacher
18.6.18