



The Kenn & Kenton Federation

Executive Head Teacher: Amanda Somerwill



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Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome everybody to the first governor newsletter of the academic year. Last term was exceptionally busy, culminating in a fabulous Christmas performance for both schools. This term is flying by, half term being only days away. This is an appropriate point in the year to inform new parents, as well as remind existing parents, what your governing body is here to do. The three core functions of the governing body are:

- To ensure that the vision, ethos and strategic direction of the schools is clearly defined
- To ensure that the head teacher performs her responsibility for the education performance of the schools
- To ensure the sound, proper and effective use of the school's financial resources.

To facilitate this, the governing body meets for full governor meetings (FGM) every half term. These meetings alternate between Kenn & Kenton schools. Your governing body adopts a committee structure to undertake their monitoring and evaluation roles. This consists of the Finance, Personnel and Premises Committee (FPP) and the Teaching and Learning Committee (TL). Membership is determined by skills analysis, repeated annually, to ensure appropriate representation on both committees. These committees meet in addition to FGM and again they average six times a year. In addition to the formal meetings, all governors will participate in monitoring sessions within school. These sessions have a specific remit in line with those items identified within the school improvement plan (SIP). To view the membership of the FPP and TL committees please use the following;

<http://www.kenn-primary.devon.sch.uk/governors/the-governors/>

<http://www.kenton-primary.devon.sch.uk/governors-2/the-governors/>

It is now two years since Kenn and Kenton schools joined together and became the Kenn & Kenton Federation. This is therefore an ideal opportunity to look at the benefits this has given to our children, as well as staff and the wider community.

Learning Together



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The main drive for deciding to federate in the first instance was to enable us to improve and enhance the quality of teaching and learning for our children.

The federation has provided the opportunity for increased shared learning and activities within peer groups. Class 2 joined Cherry Class last term for a trip to Powderham Castle and similarly Oak Class combined with Class 3 in their work around Egyptology. This is invaluable in increasing diversity and enhancing discussion, allowing us to greater prepare our children for that move to secondary school.

As a governing body we are better placed to hold schools to account by working with two school and using experience from both of them to further facilitate optimal environments for our children to learn and develop.

The federation has also allowed us to offer an increased level of flexibility and continuity in terms of staffing, giving more options within middle management as a result of both schools having Heads of Teaching and Learning. This not only improves staff development and CPD, but also allows for subject specialism and resource sharing for the specific age groups. As well as this contributing to peer support for staff, it allows the children to be given a broader outlook and as well as more options within their learning. All of these factors, be it directly or indirectly, result in an improved quality of teaching and a better learning experience for our children.

Finally, we have been able to lease the school minibus as a federation venture. This has provided us with increased capacity for school trips, reduced transport costs for parents & carers, sustained viability for After School Club; in addition to great advertising as the minibus drives around the local area!

We hope you all enjoy your half term break and hope too, that the rain stops for the holiday. Next half term is exceptionally short, with Easter imminent and hopefully spring around the corner too!