



The Kenn & Kenton Federation

Executive Head Teacher: Amanda Somerwill



Kenn C of E Primary School
Kennford
Exeter
Devon , EX6 7TX
Tel: 01392 832347
Email: admin@kennandkenton.devon.sch.uk

Kenton Primary School
Mamhead Road
Kenton, Exeter
Devon, EX6 8LX
Tel: 01626 890465

Email: admin@kennandkenton.devon.sch.uk

Governors Newsletter Spring 2017

As we approach the half way point of the term and indeed the academic year, this is an opportunity to look at the year so far as well as what's ahead of us in the months to come.

The Autumn term saw the return of the CAP (Children's Assault Programme) team. Children who have taken part in abuse prevention programmes are three times more likely to disclose abuse than those who have not. These children also show increased skills in protective behaviours. (Cochrane, April 2015). CAP's aim is to reduce the vulnerability of children to all forms of abuse by running age appropriate workshops. The use of puppets, images, songs, role-play, films and discussion makes the sessions fun and enjoyable. The whole community approach to children's safety is a vital aspect of the CAP programme. Separate sessions are run for parents, school staff and governors before the work with the children. We hope that those of you who came along to the parent session found it valuable. This programme is repeated every three years.

Every few years we feel it is appropriate to inform you about safeguarding and the process. There can be no issue of greater importance to parents and carers, or to our schools, than the safety of our children; safeguarding therefore remains high on our agenda and can be summarised as:

- Protecting children from maltreatment
- Preventing impairment of children's health or development

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- Ensuring children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- Undertaking that role so as to enable those children to have optimum life chances to enter adulthood successfully

In order to ensure oversight and scrutiny of the safeguarding policy, procedure and practice, we nominate a safeguarding governor and staff member. The people in these roles are Carol Smith and Amanda Somerwill.

If any parent has any concerns or questions relating to safeguarding, then please direct those concerns to the designated people. Safeguarding is everyone's business and responsibility.

As always, the focus of our year as governors is centred around monitoring, linked to the school improvement plan (SIP). School governing bodies are created by law and their roles and responsibilities are set out in law. This is an opportunity to remind you, that each member of the governing body has an area of responsibility and will visit school to evaluate development in this area, linking back to the specifics of the school improvement plan. In particular this year, we are looking at the the wider curriculum, higher level writing and the impact of the Pupil Premium Grant (PPG). We continue to ask challenging questions to ascertain effectiveness of progress and attainment and the impact of change. Behaviour has also been high on the agenda and we are delighted to see the improvement evidenced so clearly. We are working on producing a summary version of The Federation Vision and Strategic Plan which will then be added to the Governor link on the websites and be updated annually.

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This is also an opportunity for us to provide some information about the financial aspect of running our schools. Our FPP (Finance, Personnel & Premises) committee meet each half term and they are responsible for the financial performance of the Federation. This is particularly challenging when the funding will be reduced in terms of 'cost per child' from September 2017, yet the living wage, national insurance and pension contributions have increased. Together this is putting our budget under considerable strain and it is important that this is understood.

An Ofsted visit remains a high possibility for Kenton during this term and the nature of a Federation means that Ofsted may also choose to revisit Kenn at the same time, despite only visiting in Autumn 2014. We will of course keep you updated once we receive that telephone call announcing the inspection!

Finally, can we ask for any parents who might be willing to participate in the Kenn Community Forum. This is a great forum for two way dialogue and has been very successful at Kenton. Ideally a representative for each year group is required for it to be most valuable.

We hope that you all enjoy the half term break and we look forward to the second half of the year.