



The Kenn & Kenton Federation



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Head Teacher: Neil Swait

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As we approach the end of this academic year there is a great deal for children, parents, staff and governors of the Kenn & Kenton Federation to be proud of. As a board of governors it has been an exceptionally challenging year and we have had to hit the ground running in order to make both important and difficult decisions. It is therefore a good opportunity to revisit the responsibilities of the board of governors.

The primary aim is to ensure that every child receives the best possible education and in doing so we have a vital role to play in driving up school and pupil performance and ensuring that resources are used well. The education system is changing rapidly and school governance needs to change too to play its part; being dynamic and focusing on core strategic functions. We have recently carried out a competency skill analysis to ensure that, between us all, we bring the necessary skill mix to the table to enable us to be challenging and proactive for the good of the schools development and progression.

As a board of governors we have a strong focus on core strategic functions as discussed in previous newsletters and to achieve this, in addition to the scheduled meetings, we visit the schools during the school day. Visits have a clear focus, linked to a subject area or a specific item on the School Improvement Plan (SIP). As governors, we can see whether the school is implementing the policies and improvement plans we have signed off and how they are working in practice. Visits also provide an opportunity to talk with pupils, staff and parents to gather their views. However, we are not inspectors and it is not our role to assess the quality or method of teaching or extent of learning. A particularly important point to make is that of confidentiality and conduct. At all times we observe complete confidentiality when required or asked to do so by the board of governors, especially regarding matters concerning individual staff or children. We will only speak or act on behalf of the board of governors when we have been specifically authorised to do so and our conduct will always be mindful of our responsibility to maintain and develop the ethos and reputation of both our schools. The responsibility of appropriate conduct, particularly when relating to confidentiality, continues upon ceasing to be a governor.

At the end of last term Sandy Martin resigned her position as staff governor and we would like to thank her for all her input. Linda Baker will move into the elected staff governor position, leaving a co-opted staff governor vacancy.

During the summer term Jan Caig, Jane Lewis and Nicola Amos attended the Finance for School Governors course. Carol Smith, in her role as SEN governor, completed a course on the new SEN legislation, Julie Gibbs a day on teachers pay and performance and Jan Caig an HR update. As always, after attending a course, governors complete a feedback form and report back at the next Full Governors Meeting (FGM).

The focus of the summer term has continued to be on monitoring. Warren Knight and Jan Caig met with Neil Swait and Amanda Somerwill to discuss teaching and learning standards within the individual schools and across the federation. Linda Baker, Leigh Mansfield and Barry Cripps met with Lorraine Bestwick and Jo Slack in their roles as Maths Coordinators. This visit was linked to the numeracy targets within the SIP's. Jane Lewis met with Amanda Somerwill for a 'walk about' at Kenton Primary School. This was in order to become familiar with the premises at Kenton for Jane's role on FFP committee. Finally, Leigh Mansfield joined Kenton EYFS and KS1

Learning Together

children on two educational trips linked to their topics of 'under the sea' and 'mini beasts'. All visits are formally recorded in writing and evidenced against the curriculum or SIP objective.

We would like to take this opportunity to offer our congratulations to all children for their continued hard work throughout the year. We hope you have had lots of fun in your learning and enjoyed the year at school. For those at the end of KS1 and KS2 it has resulted in formative assessments and in Year 1, phonics assessments and we say a huge well done to you all; not only for your achievements but for your considerable effort too.

A SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) inspector visited Kenn this term and it is with great pride that we say we have been judged an outstanding school by the SIAMS inspection team. The principal objective of the inspection is to evaluate the Christian distinctiveness and effectiveness of the school as a church school. Our congratulations to Neil Swait and all the staff at Kenn for this achievement. Well done!

As we are now only days away from the end of term we would like to take this opportunity to thank Neil Swait very much for all his hard work during his time at Kenn Cof E Primary School. We wish him all the very best in his future ventures as part of the inspection process. It is with great regret that we are also saying goodbye to Liz Bowles at the end of this term. Mrs Bowles will be tremendously missed by parents, children and staff and again we would like to thank her very much for all she has done for the school. We send her our very best wishes for her new job.

As we move forward to September we look to embrace a period of stability with Amanda Somerwill as Executive Head teacher and Joe Baxter and Jo Slack as Heads of Teaching and Learning. We know your summers will inevitably be busy, so again we wish you well for your new roles in September!

Finally to all the year 6 children who are moving on to a variety of secondary schools, good luck to you too. We hope you rise to and enjoy your challenges ahead and take fond memories with you of your primary school days.

Hope everyone has a wonderful summer break, that the lightening outside is short lived and the sun continues to shine for the duration of the summer holidays!

