



July 2015

Dear Parents and Carers, Staff and Children,

What a year it has been! As the school holidays draw closer, it is an appropriate time to reflect on what the governing body of the school has been doing over the past academic year, as well as outline plans for the year ahead.

First and foremost our thoughts are with Sacha Saucek and his family as he slowly and steadily recovers from the devastating incident of July 10th. It has been heartening to see the swell of support, warmth and love extended to the Saucek family during this very difficult time, a reflection of how special and closely-knit our school community is. Sacha, get well soon, we continue to hold you in our minds and our hearts.

After five years at the helm, Michael leaves us for his new role as head teacher at Birch Hill Primary School, and he will be greatly missed. Once more we extend our thanks for his leadership and commitment to Kew Riverside and wish him well for the future. He leaves a dynamic and inspiring leadership team in place, and a cohort of teaching staff who are dedicated to the children and continuously improving standards.

Our biggest challenge this year has undoubtedly been finding Michael's replacement. The governing body conducted two exhaustive and very thorough rounds of interviews, with input from all quarters, and we are delighted that Darren Norman will be taking over in September. A number of you have already met with him during his visits to the school and I know that the children and staff are very excited about him joining us to lead Kew Riverside in its next stage of growth.

The Curriculum and Achievement Committee (CAC) has been working with Michael and the Leadership Team to consistently review and evaluate teaching and learning, pupil achievement and standards. Results from this year's KS1 and KS2 SATs are very good. The school has achieved its targets and levels of achievement are in line with the local authority, some of the highest in the country. Kew Riverside is at the top of the borough's table for 'percentage of pupils exceeding expected progress in reading' at 64%. There is much to be applauded and the children – and their teachers – have demonstrated that hard work and dedication do pay dividends. We commend them all.

The Finance and Resources Committee (F&R) has been working closely with Louise (our School Business Manager) to ensure effective and efficient administration of the school's financial affairs. This has been particularly relevant with the school moving to a new IT contract from September, ensuring Pride was held to account with regard to falling standards of school meals, and liaising with 14Forty who manage the school premises. The school's financial status is sound and Louise is to be applauded for the incredible work she has done in putting rigorous accounting procedures in place.

The new Engagement and Communications Committee (E&C) has been essential in ensuring there is now a clear channel of communication between the school, parents, staff and children. With the new website now fully functional, the school will

be moving to fortnightly bulletins from September as all details and information will be readily available and updated online. The E&C Committee has also redesigned the annual Parent Survey and our thanks go out once more to all the parents and carers who took the time to respond to this year's questionnaire. We had a total of 122 responses and have already begun to analyse feedback and schedule action plans to address issues. Results from the survey have been sent out under separate cover and more details will follow in September.

A number of new co-opted governors joined us this year: Robin Birn, Graham Webber, Jamie Holloway, John Grant and Richard Leonard, our new parent governor. From September, we will be arranging 'meet and greet' sessions to ensure parents have the opportunity to meet with all of us and discuss any issues or concerns. Input from all parties is very important and we welcome constructive criticism as well!

Sadly two of our governors are also stepping down: Ian Todd and Jane Spencer. We would like to extend our thanks for their time and dedication as members of the governing body at Kew Riverside, in particular Jane who has been a governor for eight years and chair until last year. She has had a huge influence on the way the school has changed and progressed over the past years, working hard and supporting the Kew Riverside community as well as mentoring Michael in his first headship.

The next school year will undoubtedly see further changes as our new head teacher takes over. We hope to welcome Sonia back into our midst in due course, wish Maria all the best for her upcoming nuptials, and Anna and her husband on the birth of their first child. As governors we will strive to work with Darren and the leadership team to ensure that Kew Riverside continues along its path towards outstanding.

Finally, we will also have a vacancy arising for another co-opted governor from September: if you have skills that would be valuable to the governing body (analytical, numeracy, communication, education), I would encourage you to consider discussing the post in more detail with me. Being involved with the school as a governor can be challenging but also enormously rewarding, and is a great way to give something back to the community as an active volunteer.

Wishing you all a very safe and relaxing summer holiday.

With best wishes,



Sabina Regan
Chair of the Governing Body