



July 2017

Dear Parents and Carers, Staff and Children,

Another academic year draws to an end, and it is time to recap on a very busy past ten months for the governing body.

We have had a challenging year on a number of fronts: getting to grips with Pupil Asset and working with Darren to define the best manner of keeping it both informative yet simple and straightforward; dealing with staff absences and cover in times of enormous budgetary restraints; and implementing and observing in action the fully revised and rewritten behaviour policy. As ever, there is never a dull moment!

Making the most of our assessment system Pupil Asset has proven to be a steep learning curve, however feedback from all fronts has been valuable. The new school year will see improvements in both reporting and terminology so that there is a clearer understanding from the start for all parents and carers when reviewing how their child is progressing under the new curriculum. I would urge you to attend the assessment evening in the Autumn term to get a comprehensive overview of how to interpret the information you receive in reports.

Ofsted came and went in early January: a demanding yet highly informative process that saw us retain our 'Good' rating – with, I might add, substantial elements of 'Outstanding' – and gave us a solid understanding of what we can improve further to achieve even more in the years ahead. This drive is already very much in evidence with our latest SATs results showing substantial and impressive improvements across the field, most noticeably in writing, reading and maths. The children at Kew Riverside have scored higher than both national and local results in most areas, something that deserves recognition and celebration. We have many dedicated and extremely talented teachers at our school and their hard work shines through. Well done to all and especially the children!

Our long-awaited and stunning library opened to much fanfare and has become a central focus for all pupils. With the reception area also being updated, the feeling throughout Kew Riverside is that this is a school that is not only going places, it is also adopting and implementing the 'can do' attitude that is central to Darren's vision for our future. Plans are underway for outdoor area redevelopments – thanks to funds raised via the KRPS cycle challenge – so expect to see more in the new academic year.

Congratulations to Olivia on the birth of baby Russell. Their visit to the school was another year-end highlight and it was wonderful to see them looking so well.

We are sorry to see Sonia leave, but excited about Nell stepping up as our new Deputy Head. Having been, to all extents and purposes, without a deputy since his arrival at the school this will be of enormous help to Darren. Other members of staff are also taking on more responsibilities within the leadership team and Darren continues to build on his ambitions for the school. We have had thought-provoking and highly constructive governors' meetings throughout the year and are impressed

and thankful to have such a dedicated and devoted head teacher with a strong leadership team supporting him.

Regular updates in the fortnightly bulletin during the Autumn and Spring terms sought to give further insight as to who the governors are and clarify our roles. We shall repeat these again in the new academic year and aim to update you more regularly on what we are engaged with. We retain an open door policy, are always available to discuss any issues or concerns you might have and also welcome ideas and contributions as to what you feel we – and the school – could do better. All our details are on the school website.

In Autumn 2017 we shall be holding elections for a new parent governor as the dedicated, extremely talented and hard-working Katie Rodney-Smith comes to the end of her four-year term. Katie has been instrumental as the chair of the finance and resources committee, scrutinising the school budget and worked closely with Louise, our school business manager, in ensuring that expenditure has been correctly managed and audited. She has been a phenomenal team player and contributed to improving reporting processes and procedures overall and will be greatly missed. I personally wish to thank her for her time and dedication over the past four years.

Should you be interested in standing as a parent governor, please get in touch and I will be happy to explain all that this role entails. We have a proper job description and skillset requirement, but what is most important is a positive attitude and a desire to make a constructive contribution to the school overall.

A huge thank you to all the parents and carers who took the time to respond to this year's questionnaire. We had a total of 79 responses, the majority of which were incredibly positive in their praise of the school, Darren and the leadership team. A summary will be circulated separately and more details will follow in September.

Finally, it is also time for me to step down. With a talented and dedicated team of governors at Kew Riverside, and a succession plan, in place, I will be formally standing down from my position in September when a new chair is elected. I have thoroughly enjoyed my five years as a governor of this wonderful school and shall miss the community spirit enormously. It has been challenging, insightful, hard work but also incredibly rewarding and great fun.

I leave you in the very best of hands and with a phenomenal group of individuals whose dedication to the children and the school is virtually unparalleled.

Thank you all for your support.

Wishing everyone a very safe and relaxing summer holiday.

With best wishes,



Sabina Mangosi
Chair of the Governing Body