



December 2015

Dear Parents and Carers, Staff and Children,

One term over already! As the Christmas holiday period now gets underway, I wanted to update you all on what the governing body of the school has been doing over the past few months, as well as outline plans for the Spring term.

Our biggest focus this term has been to provide Darren with the right level of support and guidance to assist him in his new role as Head Teacher at Kew Riverside. With a couple of excellent mentors in Rob Eyre-Brook - who is our Local Authority School Improvement Partner (SIP) – and Mark Hartley – Head Teacher at Barnes Primary School – plus the energy of the leadership team, the staff and the governors, we are delighted with how he has settled in and is making positive improvements to our school.

The Curriculum and Achievement Committee (CAC) has been looking at how Kew Riverside promotes British Values – a key element now in Ofsted's guidelines – and was given an excellent presentation by Sarah Waight around this topic. Darren has also provided updates and insight around the new assessment levels that the school is adopting. The changes will benefit parents, teachers and children in having a clear understanding about the levels of learning and how these feed back into ensuring all pupils master their full potential.

The Finance and Resources Committee (F&R) continues to work closely with Louise (our School Business Manager) to ensure effective and efficient administration of the school's financial affairs. Key policies have been reviewed and updated, including Safeguarding, Health & Safety, Managing Medicines, and Financial Risk Assessment. When benchmarked against other schools, locally and nationally, Kew Riverside is shown to be performing very well, both in terms of how funds are invested in the children's learning, as well as regarding results.

The Engagement and Communications Committee (E&C) has been looking at fundraising opportunities for the school and liaising with the PTA about sharing ideas and how best to direct energies. With the school library project now underway, a new application for additional funding from the Foyle Foundation is being drafted. Further improvements to the school website are also being addressed.

Many of the governors have attended specialist training this term including Health & Safety, Safer Recruitment and Safeguarding Children. A number of us have conducted learning walks around the school and were very impressed with the standard of teaching, the class and corridor displays, and the level of engagement from the children. Kew Riverside is a very happy and welcoming school, with excellent and dedicated teaching staff.

We have a few changes in the governing body this year. Jenny Mikklesen, the vice chair, has resigned as governor after twelve years with our school. We shall miss her and wish to thank her for her time and dedication to Kew Riverside. Two new co-opted governors join us: Keren Menashe and Stephen Hyams.

Keren is a parent at Kew Riverside and brings many years' experience in education, mediation and public relations, with valuable international know-how and cultural understanding.

Stephen is a retired actuary with extensive data analysis and financial management skills. He lives locally and holds degrees in chemistry and information science.

We are very pleased to have them on board and can already foresee the excellent contribution they will make to our school as governors.

The next school term will continue to see the governing body work positively and constructively with Darren and the leadership team to ensure that Kew Riverside continues along its path towards outstanding.

We are fully supportive of the school's emphasis on improving standards of behaviour, ensuring that Kew Riverside remains a safe and protective environment for all. To this end, we will be reviewing the current Behaviour Policy and the school will be putting in place a strategy from the start of the Spring term to clarify all the elements that together provide the structure for Kew Riverside's high expectations of behaviour. This will cover not only the rules, but also school uniform, attendance and punctuality, and conduct in the community.

As ever, we value the input and support of parents and carers, so please do get in touch – we don't bite!

Wishing you all a very safe and relaxing festive holiday.

With best wishes,



Sabina Mangosi  
Chair of the Governing Body