

Kenningtons Primary Academy

Tamar Drive, Aveley, Essex, RM15 4NB

Telephone: 01708 865663 Fax: 01708 869376

www.kenningtonprimaryacademy.co.uk email: admin@kenningtons.thurrock.sch.uk



"Helping children to get better and better at everything they do"

22nd July 2016

End of Year Letter from Governing Body 2015/16

Dear Parents/Carers,

The 61st year of Kenningtons Primary has now come to an end. Many of you will remember that last October we celebrated this school's 60th anniversary when we invited ex-pupils from years gone by in to the school to take part in the celebrations. Some things would have been very familiar to them but they would also have seen the how the school has developed, modernised and grown since their own time here.

Every year is a busy year at Kenningtons and this has been no exception.

- ✓ The growing demand for school places in Thurrock has seen us increase our intake in Reception, Year 1 and Year 4.
- ✓ We have introduced a new assessment system, 'Learning Ladders'.
- ✓ Pupils have taken the new SATs.
- ✓ Ofsted paid an unannounced visit in March - we are still a 'Good' school.

But the school has taken all that in its stride. Credit must go to the children and all staff, teaching and non-teaching, for coping so well.

The main focus of the school as always is the children; making sure each child receives an excellent primary education with an interesting and broad curriculum to excite and inspire them to want to improve their skills and learn new things. We hope that when you look back over the past year, you have seen your child progress and that when reading your child's end of year report, you are happy with their achievements.

We have again produced a Governors' End of Year Report which outlines some of the work and decisions of the governing body this academic year. A copy is attached to this letter and a copy will also be posted on the school's website.

The report also gives the headline results of this summer's SATs. Teachers and pupils have worked hard to get the best possible results from these new tests. So congratulations to them. You will be pleased to see that our pupils have either exceeded or matched the national results in most areas.

We must also thank you as parents and carers for the support you have given your children and this school. It is a team effort between teachers, other staff, governors, pupils and parents/carers that go towards making this school a success. The school's success is the result of Mrs Sawtell-Haynes and her leadership team continuing to raise expectations for all pupils and to drive the school forward.



Kenningtons Primary Academy

Tamar Drive, Aveley, Essex, RM15 4NB

Telephone: 01708 865663 Fax: 01708 869376

www.kenningtonprimaryacademy.co.uk email: admin@kenningtons.thurrock.sch.uk



*"Helping children to get
better and better
at everything they do"*

The end of summer term means that the Year 6 children will be leaving to start their secondary school in September. We wish them luck and hope they all do well. We also have to say farewell to those members of staff who will be moving on too. We offer them our best wishes and good luck for the future. As to everyone else, we shall see you in September after the summer holidays, refreshed and ready to go for the 62nd year of Kenningtons Primary.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Sayers
Chair of Governors
On behalf of the Governing Body



Healthy Schools
THURROCK



LOTTERY FUNDED



Governors' Report to Parents 2015/2016

THE GOVERNING BODY

The Kenningtons Primary Academy Governing Body consists of a group of volunteers from staff, parents and the local community. They come from a range of backgrounds including education and teaching, finance, human resources and insurance. Full details of membership can be found on the school's website.

The Governing Body has three core functions:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff; and
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

Governors work with the headteacher and other members of staff to carry out their roles through:

- Attending full governing body and committee meetings
- Carrying out monitoring visits

THE WORK OF THE GOVERNING BODY 2015-2016

MEETINGS

Governors meet on a regular basis either as a full Governing Body or as smaller committees.

This year the following meetings were held:

- 6 full governing body meetings plus 1 emergency governing body meeting and the AGM
- 3 finance and audit committee meetings
- 3 admissions committee meetings
- 2 pay committee meetings

At these meetings a number of issues have been discussed and decisions made all around the three core functions of the Governing Body. Amongst those matters discussed and decisions made were:

- Reviewing pupils' attainment and progress in all year groups including monitoring any gaps between groups of children and checking the impact the pupil premium has on those children in receipt of this grant.
- Monitoring how the sports premium grant is spent.
- Finance:
 - Monitoring the school's budget to ensure resources are targeted for the pupils' benefit
 - Setting and agreeing the budget
 - Agreeing premises projects. The reception classrooms in the KS1 building were refurbished last summer and because the budget is carefully managed, we will be able to complete the refurbishment of the remaining classrooms in the KS1 building in the coming summer holidays.



Governors' Report to Parents 2015/2016

- Reviewing reports from our auditors and Essex county Council, who carry out termly checks on our internal accounting systems.
- Receiving reports on the standard of teaching and what support and continuous professional development teachers receive
- Monitoring the implementation of 'Learning Ladders', the new assessment tool adopted by the school
- Head teacher performance management
- Agreeing pay awards and monitoring teachers' performance management
- Determining the Admissions Policy and agreeing the intake for reception and nursery
- Agreeing additional intake for Years 1 and 4 (additional intake for Reception was agreed in summer 2015)
- Monitoring pupils' attendance over the whole school and reviewing strategies to reduce absences.
- Safeguarding and Health and Safety

MONITORING VISITS

This year governors made numerous monitoring visits covering the following areas:

- Monitoring the school's progress against the school improvement plan
- Safeguarding
- Health and Safety
- 2015 KS1 and KS2 SATs data analysis
- Vulnerable children
- Lesson observations
- Parents' consultation
- Compliance of school website

TRAINING

Governors are a dedicated group of people. Learning what the role involves and how to carry out that role more effectively is very important. This year governors have completed the following training:

- Induction for new governors
- Safeguarding
- E-Safety
- Finance
- Effective and Efficient Governance



Governors' Report to Parents 2015/2016

- Key Updates for Governors
- Special Educational Needs
- Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation

In addition the Chair has completed the Chairs of Governors' Leadership Development Programme and the Clerk has completed the National Clerks' Development Programme.

OFSTED VISIT

The Chair of Governors met with Her Majesty's Inspectors (HMI) during the Ofsted visit in March. Governors reviewed the Ofsted letter issued following their visit. The priorities for further improvement recommended by the Inspectors were considered by governors as to how to develop this for the future.

PUPILS' ACHIEVEMENTS 2015-2016

Headline results from this summer's SATs and assessments have just been made available. Brief details are as follows:

Reception:	Kenningtons	National
% of pupils reaching Good Level of Development	63.4%	69.2%
	% of pupils reaching expected standard	
	Kenningtons	National
Year 1 Phonics	69%	80.7%
KS1:		
Reading	78%	74.1%
Writing	62%	65.5%
Maths	83%	72.6%
KS2:		
Reading	66%	66%
Writing	81%	74%
Maths	89%	70%
Reading/Writing/Maths Combined	64%	53%

Governors are very pleased with these results particularly taking into account the introduction of a more challenging national curriculum in 2014/15 and tougher tests in summer 2016. Parents should note the following comment from the DfE:

"Figures for 2016 are not comparable to those for earlier years. The expectations for pupils at the end of key stage 2 have been raised. Given the difference in the curriculum and assessments, levels are not comparable with scaled scores or teacher assessment outcomes."



Governors' Report to Parents 2015/2016

Children at Kenningtons of course also cover a wide range of subjects apart from reading, writing and maths. This year the school has continued working with the Royal Opera House in their 'Trailblazer' project, a programme to bring quality arts and cultural activities to children in Thurrock. This culminated in the cultural week in May which focussed on the young Queen Victoria. Many parents would have seen the work pupils had put in, particularly in art and in the performance of a short play devised and acted by pupils. Many of the items made by the children were exhibited in a specially created museum in the school for parents to view. – there was some wonderful feedback received from parents. One of the pieces created by the children was chosen by the Royal Opera House for an exhibition at Kensington Palace and was awarded a first place – a great achievement.

Pupils have also participated in a variety of sports including football, netball, cricket, athletics. Kenningtons children have this year won medals at the borough Olympics and our netball team have just recently won their league. So well done to them and everyone who has competed for the school this year. Other physical activities children have taken part in this year have been the Big Pedal 2016 and Walk the World (The Daily Mile). The school encourages the children to lead a healthy lifestyle and participating in sports is part of that, along with healthy lunches and snacks at breaks the school provides.