Kenningtons Primary Academy

Tamar Drive, Aveley, Essex, RM15 4NB

Telephone: 01708 865663 Fax: 01708 869376

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

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

July 2015

Chair of Governors End of Year Letter to Parents/Carers

Dear Parents/Carers,

It is now the end of this academic year and it gives us, the Governing Body, the chance to look back on the past year.

This has been a busy year and we have produced a Governors' Report summarising what decisions the Governing Body has taken, what has been happening and what has been achieved at Kenningtons. A copy is attached to this letter and a copy will also be posted on the school's website.

By now you will have received your own child's end of year report and I hope you are happy with their progress and achievement. You will see from the attached Governors' Report that we are very pleased with the recent SATs results and we congratulate the children in Years 2 and 6 on doing so well. We know from the school's own assessments that the vast majority of children in all years make good progress. This is a reflection of the good teaching and learning at the school and the efforts of all staff to support and encourage each child to do their best.

You as parents and carers also play your part in the success of your child's education and we thank you for your support this year, especially your patience and understanding during the building improvement works.

It is also the time of year that we have to say farewell to those members of the school who will be moving on at the end of term. We offer our best wishes to teaching staff leaving to take up new roles and wish all success to the Year 6 children moving up to secondary school. We wish everyone a good summer and look forward to seeing all those returning in September.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Sayers
Chair of Governors
On behalf of the Governing Body

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Kenningtons Primary Academy

Governing Body - Report to Parents

Academic Year 2014/2015

Governing Body – Strategic Role

Who are the Governing Body and what do they do?
The Governing Body is made up of a group of committed volunteers from the local community, from parents, and from staff. 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.

By working with the headteacher and other members of staff, governors fulfil their roles through

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

In 2014/2015 the following number of meetings were held:

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

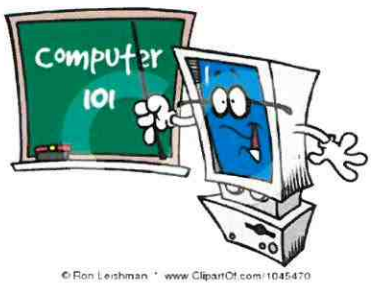
In 2014/2015 governors made numerous monitoring visits covering the following areas:

- Monitoring the school's progress against the school improvement plan
- Safeguarding and child protection
- 2014 KS1 and KS2 SATS data
- Vulnerable children
- Health and safety
- Lesson observations
- ICT
- Music

The Governing Body consists of 11 members. At present there is a vacancy for a parent governor and we will be seeking to fill this position in the Autumn Term 2015. So please look out for further information on this after the summer holidays.

Extra Reception Class

No doubt many of you will have read reports of the increasing demand for primary school places in Thurrock and throughout the UK. Earlier this year, we were approached by the Local Authority to take an extra reception class in September 2015. The Governing Body met especially to discuss this proposal and to give it careful consideration. We agreed that as Kenningtons is a 'good' school and we have a strong staff structure and leadership team, it was important to work with the Local Authority and support our local community. Therefore we agreed to increase our Reception intake at this September to 90. At the time of writing, exact numbers are not known, but we can confirm we are sticking to our policy of smaller Reception classes; the intake will be split across four classes in Reception.



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Premises Facilities and Equipment

This year we have seen some major improvements to the school premises and facilities, namely:

- Extension to and refurbishment of the KS2 Building
- Upgrade of the heating system including the installation of new boilers

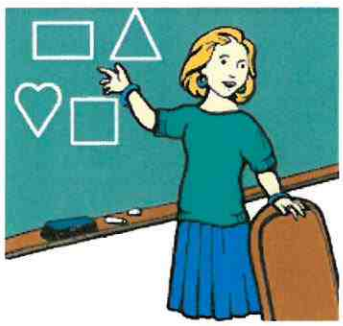
Both these projects did cause some disruption, but governors believe that children at Kenningtons should be learning in the best possible facilities and surroundings with up to date equipment. To that end governors have again agreed that further improvements should be made to the premises, in part to accommodate the extra Reception class. So refurbishments are to be made to the KS1 Building, but thankfully these will not be as extensive as previous and most of the work will be done over the summer holidays. There should be little disruption to the school.

We have also reconsidered the ICT provision in the school. The Governing Body has recently agreed the purchase of a number of laptops, which we hope will mean that children will be able to utilise computer technology more throughout the curriculum.

Finance

As with any other school we have to manage and control our own budget. It is key that the school's money is spent to benefit the children's education through providing good premises, facilities and equipment, good experiences to enhance their education and good teachers. We were able to allocate money from the budget to make the major improvements to the school this past year because we believe our budget is well managed, although some of those works were not paid for out of the school budget but by a significant grant from the government.

The school accounts are independently audited each year and each term our internal accounting systems are checked by services from Essex County Council. All checks and audits provide oversight and scrutiny and they support the school in confirming that financially the school is well managed.



Staffing

Kenningtons Primary Academy is a growing school. Again because of good financial management, we have this year increased our leadership team with the appointment of two assistant headteachers, Miss Brewster and Miss Brand. These appointments have enabled the school's leadership team to have more scope to develop the curriculum, support teachers in improving their teaching skills and develop marking strategies to help children progress in their learning

Pupil Achievement and Experience

Headline results from this summer's SATs have just been made available. We are happy to report that the children in Years 2 and 6 achieved some very good results. Brief overall details are as follows:

KS1	
	% achieving Level 2+
Reading	90%
Writing	90%
Maths	90%

KS2		
	% achieving Level 4+	% achieving Level 4B
Combined Reading, Writing and Maths	84%*	73%
	(*this continues an upward trend from 2011)	
	% achieving 2 Levels progress	% achieving 3 Levels progress
Reading	97.6%	48.8%
Writing	97.6%	29.3%
Maths	92.7%	34.1%

The children in reception have also done very well this year with 71% making a good level of development. This stands them in good stead to do well and make good progress in KS1 and further on in KS2.

A large part in achieving good academic results is providing a good and interesting curriculum outside of reading, writing and maths, together with opportunities to experience a full range of activities in school and beyond. With dedicated PE and music teachers, children have been able to participate in various sports, singing in a choir and learning a musical instrument.

Some of the events children have attended and experienced were:

Borough Olympics
Thurrock Music Festival
Working with the Royal Opera House
Essex Wildlife Trust
Barleylands
Working with Sustrans
Kwik Cricket Festival
Chafford Gorges
Imperial War Museum
British Museum
Science Museum
Tower of London
Alice in Wonderland (theatre)
The Gruffalo (theatre)

Discussing your child's progress with their teacher is always important and the school provided a number of opportunities for parents to do this through parent consultation days and evenings and drop in sessions. There were also opportunities for parents to attend various workshops to help support their child's education and attend some of the other events at the school. Overall attendance by parents in school at events was around 95% which shows great support from parents for pupils at Kenningtons.