

# Governors' Newsletter



Year 5 celebrate Fairtrade with dance and fashion as they model their Fairtrade T-shirts

## Message from the Co-Chairs

We can't believe it's the end of another year at East Sheen Primary and we're very proud of the achievements the school has made. This year saw the roll out of our school vision to pupils and staff, focusing on four words that typify the type of children we believe our children are: **Happy, Curious, Resilient and Kind**

As you know we are well on our way to meeting our strategic objective to become an accredited Thinking School. This

year saw us introduce our third tool "Habits of Mind" whilst embedding thinking maps and hats into our practice. In talking to the children we are so pleased to see them using all of these tools on a daily basis both in school and out. We aim to achieve accreditation in 2017. Our thanks to Carla Ruocco who is leading this important initiative.

You may have noticed the arrival of several portacabins stacked in the Putney playground. We're

excited that the new build will shortly be underway after a small delay due to planning constraints. But with the help of clever timetabling and contractors the project should finish by summer 2017. We will be keeping you posted throughout the build with the latest developments.

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to two of our fellow governors. Janet Dewhurst has been on the governing body

since 1995 – an astonishing 21 years. She has served as chair and vice-chair of Governors, sat on panels to appoint heads and deputy heads and contributed a fantastic amount to East Sheen Primary. Janet exemplifies the critical friend that all governors should aspire to be and will be sorely missed.



**Year 4 exploring Sheen in the war years**

Father Stuart is also leaving for a new pastoral role in Richmond. As the governor responsible for working with the school around safeguarding issues, he always showed interest in the healthy development of ‘the whole child’, incorporating physical, psychological and spiritual dimensions. Father Stuart was a frequent visitor to East Sheen who took regular assemblies within the school, hosted visits to the church as well as leading our annual carol service and working in the classroom. We will miss him dearly and trust that he will come back to visit us when time permits. We do, however, look forward to welcoming his successor at All Saints in due course.

Our new elected parent governor Andrew Miller joined our team earlier this year and has been sitting on the various committees to determine where he can best help. We have also appointed Ross Cansick as a community governor who will be joining the Resources committee helping out with finance, his specific area of expertise.

Our thanks as always to the PTA who have been raising substantial amounts of money to help with projects that are often outside of our budget. Our special thanks must go to the PTA cycling team who undertook an arduous 24 hour non-stop

cycle to Paris – a very impressive achievement which raised over £18,000.

We give our special best wishes to those children in Year 6 who are now leaving us to go to secondary school. We hope we’ve given you a great start in your education, and helped you become someone who is happy, curious, resilient and kind. Please keep in touch and let us know how you get on. And if you’re a parent whose youngest child is leaving us, thank you for being part of our community; we will miss you and you will always have a warm welcome if you’d like to pop in and see us.

And so another very busy year is drawing to a close; as you can see a lot has been achieved and there’s much more to come. We would like to wish you a wonderful summer break, and look forward to seeing you again in September.

**Jessica Mellor-Clark & Raz Khan, Co-Chairs**

## The School Vision

A reminder of our school vision:

Our purpose is to nurture happy, confident children who think deeply about themselves and others in preparation for the challenges ahead.

We do this by inspiring and celebrating:

- curiosity and love for learning
- collaboration and kindness
- creativity and enthusiasm
- resilience and achievement



**An English lesson – enacting “The Twits” by Roald Dahl**

# Departing Governors



**Father Stuart Lee and Janet Dewhurst**

## Janet Dewhurst

I started as a Parent Governor at ESPS in 1995 and with two sons in the work place and the youngest just graduating, 1995 seems several lifetimes ago! I think I have probably been every variation of governor over the last twenty years; we appointed two Headteachers, three Deputy Heads and our new Assistant Head in that time. Paperwork, regulation and accountability has increased steeply and seems to spawn itself between meetings. We have significantly more children on roll, with the pending expansion to three form entry another very visible sign of the popularity of the school in the community. My mother-in-law who is in her 80's remembers a thriving school when she was growing up in pre-War East Sheen and our Centenary Year in 2013 brought messages from all over the world from the ESPS family. We are all part of an ongoing story but speaking for myself, I know that it's the sustaining and sustained vibrancy of this community, its 'can do' attitude and its commitment to bringing out the best in every single person who is – or was ever - part of ESPS that has kept me engaged in and an ambassador for its work for over two decades. Keep faith with that work and keep doing it joyfully.

## A note about Janet from Raz Khan

Janet is our longest serving Governor of 21 years and as you can see she has had a massive involvement in the development of our school.

As well as her work at ESP she was also a governor at Marshgate, which allowed her to bring an outside perspective to ESP.

She has always been proud of our schools ability to help our children develop into happy and confident people, something she espoused long before we formalised this into our vision. Her sharp insight and her ability to get to the heart of a debate in a no-nonsense, but collegiate manner, have been invaluable to the governing body.

I am grateful to Janet for inviting me onto the governing body when she was chair, and allowing me to see my children's school from another perspective. I have found her contributions, her support, and her encouraging words very helpful throughout my time on the governing body, and I will miss her involvement.

We all wish Janet every success in her new endeavours, and thank her for everything she has done to make East Sheen Primary the school it is today. I'm sure Janet will continue to maintain an interest in developments at the school.



**Wellbeing week team challenge**

## Father Stuart Lee



### **Father Stuart in his ESPS leaver's sweatshirt**

Working with the children at ESPS, whether it be in church, in the classroom or in assemblies, has been one of the highlights of my time at All Saints Church. It has been a privilege to work with the Governing Body in shaping and enacting the vision for the school, particularly in seeing how governors and staff make such an effort to focus on a positive teaching and learning experience for children in the face of increasing political and administrative pressures that could undermine this. Listening to children as they put their spiritual experiences into words has been humbling and moving and I continue to be impressed by the depth of reflection and thoughtfulness that ESPS is able to foster in children regardless of religious or faith background.

I won't be moving far away and hope to bump into friends I have made in Sheen and Richmond.

## Here are a few things the children said:

"Dear Farther Stewert, you no effry think about Jeeses" (sic-spellings as original, from Reception child)

"Even though I am not a Christian I always enjoy you visiting us and I shall never forget the Nativity play at the church last year when you wore a star on your head!!"

"Believe in yourself and you will go far, don't and you will be miserable." I learnt this from Father Stuart.

"Thank you for giving us ways of calming ourselves. I also love how you show and tell stories."



## New Parent Governor Andrew Miller



This summer we welcomed Andrew Miller to the governing body as an elected parent governor. Andrew has one son, Samuel, in Year 2, and two other children due to start ESPS in September 2016 and in 2018. He is an energy lawyer, formerly working in the City with a stint in Moscow. He now works in-house at an international oil company, working predominantly on projects in Romania and, increasingly, in East Africa. Before qualification, he taught English in Poland and has travelled extensively.

Andrew will sit on the Teaching and Learning sub-committee, and looks forward to contributing to the continued success of the school as a place of learning and as a community.



**Maths in action**

## The Build begins...



It seems like a long time ago that the first plans for our building project were brought to the table! After consultation in the autumn term the approval for expansion to 3 form entry was given and the architects set to work to design a brand new exciting classroom block and other extensions to ensure we have a school which will accommodate our growing numbers comfortably and create a positive and vibrant learning environment. Planning permission was granted in April and since then there has been a lot going on behind the scenes as contractors Thomas Sinden were appointed, project managers assigned, materials and resources procured ready for a big start to the programme as the children break up for the summer. We are delighted that the contractors have devised a programme of work which maximises use of school holiday time to progress the project quickly.

We are also fortunate with the expertise within the governing body; Nicola Lewis, an architect by profession, has been present at design meetings and was part of the tender and interview process when appointing contractors. Nicola will continue to be involved as building gets under way. We also have financial and legal expertise to support the Headship Team to ask the right questions as the project develops.

When we return in September changes will already have been made; internal alterations to the kitchen and office space will be complete, the new block will be taking shape...and the Rainbow Room will have gone at last!

# Parent Satisfaction Survey 2016 - Feedback

Thank you to everyone who recently completed the Parent Satisfaction Survey 2016. This is one of the ways in which the Governors and School Leadership Team seek the views of parents and we place great importance on your responses. This was the eighth on-line return for the survey and we had another high response rate with 277 questionnaires completed, up on the 269 of the year before.

This is the twelfth year we have run the Parent Satisfaction Survey with some minor alterations made last year to reflect current school services and include “wrap-around” care. This is the second year in which the “Neither agree nor disagree” response has been used in place of “No view”. As a result, there has been a statistically significant increase in the number of people choosing this neutral option instead of “Agree” or “Disagree” in certain questions. As changes in survey method often lead to changes in results, we will be using the 2015 year’s figures as a benchmark for the 2016 results and future years.

Although 2015 has become the new benchmark year, the results for the 5 preceding years are also in the results table below to allow review of previous year-on-year data.

In this newsletter we give feedback on some of the most significant findings.

## Summary

Once again, the survey results show overall high levels of parental satisfaction with the school; most results are in the high 80’s or 90’s. These results are a very positive endorsement of East Sheen Primary and confirm that parents’ current perception is of a happy, high performing school. “It’s a vibrant and happy school”.

The survey showed that 97% of respondents agreed with the statement “My child likes this school”, 93% “ would recommend this school to others” and 94% said “Taking everything into account I am satisfied with the school”, while 93% of respondents agreed “Teaching is good”. These are splendid results.

East Sheen Primary’s key priority is to provide a happy, safe and stimulating environment to promote children’s learning. The survey results show that 92% of respondents agree “Staff encourage my child to become mature and independent” and 94% agree “There is a good range of activities that my child finds interesting and enjoyable”. Many of the additional comments, containing lovely endorsements of the school, demonstrate that we are doing just that.

We always take account of your suggestions and concerns and use the survey as a source of information to help us determine school priorities for the year ahead.

## Outside space and building project

A number of you commented on the drainage problems in the playgrounds and concerns about the provision of outside space as the school expands.

We are of course embarking on a time of change as we expand to three form entry and the associated building works get under way. We see this as a time of great opportunity and will be establishing a governor task force to consult with the local authority to find a solution to the drainage problems that have existed at the school for many years. Exciting landscaping will also allow for better use of our outdoor space: additional astro turf will be laid once the undersized Year 1 classrooms have been demolished, a new walkway at the front of the school will link the Sheen and Putney playgrounds and instead of entering the school beside the unsightly demountable, a garden will line the path to the office, where Mrs. Hambridge (also noted by many of you as a great asset to the school!) will be waiting to offer a warm welcome. New scooter and bicycle storage will enable us to keep the grounds tidy.

The building project is being managed by the Local Authority and we have received much support and advice. There is a detailed, thoroughly thought through phasing programme and a full time site manager will be here every day. Our new 6 classroom block will give us the indoor space we now require with

high quality classrooms overlooking the green areas at the back of the school. The current Year 3 classrooms are also being expanded and our extended hall will ensure we can maintain our sense of one identity and community and make it easier to accommodate parents at assemblies and concerts. The kitchen will also be extended and kitted out with state of the art catering equipment.

In recognition of the excellent nurture work at the school, the new build will also incorporate a brand new facility for KS1 children - a “nurture hub” to support children in preparing them for life at school.

We have restructured our leadership this year and have appointed an Assistant Head for next year to ensure that we focus on what really matters-the teaching and learning of all children in the school.

### **Working parents**

We appreciate that it can be more difficult for working parents to interact with school. We do offer evening appointments for our parent/pupil consultations and PTA functions (e.g. football festival, magic show, fun run, Christmas and summer fairs) tend to be during the evening or at weekends. There is also an evening performance of the Y6 production and BBQ afterwards. We hope you all make good use of the “parent rep” system, where parents keep each other up to date with what is going on in each year group. We try to ensure relevant information is communicated via parentmail, the weekly newsletter, half termly Headship Headlines and biannual governors’ newsletters. Appointments can always be made by arrangement with individual teachers if necessary at the end of the school day, or a telephone appointment can be made if you are unable to get to school during the working day.

### **Assessment**

This is still an area of confusion for parents as the new assessment practices are introduced. We have to adhere to DfE requirements and are bound by statutory testing and a national curriculum. We do have a comprehensive tracking system in place and are able to benchmark our data against Richmond and National data. We will endeavour to clarify systems and explain reporting to parents as

thoroughly as we can but appreciate the frustration some of you feel. The government continues to make adjustments and amendments to primary assessment criteria and we aim to ensure all changes are communicated effectively.

### **School Lunches**

There is a noticeable fall in the satisfaction of parents with school lunch provision. The improvement of the lunchtime experience will form part of the school development plan next year. We will be reviewing all areas, from the quality of food, the dining experience itself to how lunch playtime is organised. We have put much in place this year, with children having the opportunity to work with the school chef to develop a bespoke menu which also meets the high school food standards, invitations to parents to join us for lunch, taster sessions and children’s feedback forms. Our school chef, Keighley Ridler, reached the finals of the “Pride Chef of the Year Competition”-one of only two school chefs to make it that far. We will continue to work hard with Pride to get this important part of the school day right.

### **Music lessons and wrap around care**

We are delighted with the high levels of satisfaction expressed in both these areas-a significant improvement in satisfaction with the quality of music lessons and a positive response to both breakfast club and the Fit for Sport after school club. We are very pleased that we have been able to secure such high quality on-site provision.

Verbatim from Year 6 leaver: “My daughter has had a wonderful start in life and leaves as a confident, well rounded individual”. Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the questionnaire, offer improvement suggestions and praise the good work of the school.

## Parent Satisfaction Survey – Detailed results 2009-2016

Agreement with statements	Year of survey						
	2015-2016	2014-2015	2013-2014	2012-2013	2011-2012	2010-2011	2009-2010
<b>Base : All respondents</b>							
My child likes this school	264	264	216	241	267	200	251
	97%	98%	97%	98%	99%	97%	100%
My child is making good progress	242	236	210	233	255	192	241
	89%	88%	94%	95%	95%	93%	96%
Children behave well in school	235	244	207	229	251	195	248
	86%	91%	93%	93%	93%	95%	98%
Teaching is good	254	247	211	235	261	201	250
	93%	92%	95%	96%	97%	98%	99%
I am kept well informed about how my child is getting on	192	199	194	196	222	175	233
	71%	74%	87%	80%	83%	85%	92%
I am satisfied with the opportunities I have to discuss my child's progress	199	203	191	193	226	180	233
	73%	75%	86%	79%	84%	87%	92%
I am pleased with my child's curriculum	240	230	202	227	256	186	239
	88%	86%	91%	93%	95%	90%	95%
I feel comfortable about approaching the school with questions or a problem or a complaint	235	226	196	215	243	192	242
	86%	84%	88%	88%	90%	93%	96%
Staff expect my child to work hard and do his or her best	242	252	210	227	251	193	243
	89%	94%	94%	93%	93%	94%	96%
The school promotes worthwhile attitudes and values	258	263	218	239	262	205	247
	95%	98%	98%	98%	97%	100%	98%
The school is led and managed well	238	239	197	226	255	201	248
	88%	89%	88%	92%	95%	98%	98%
Staff treat my child fairly	238	234	209	228	246	197	243
	88%	87%	94%	93%	91%	96%	96%
The school seeks the views of parents and takes account of their suggestions and concerns	202	206	182	195	221	163	214
	74%	77%	82%	80%	82%	79%	85%
The school encourages me to be involved in its life and work	244	248	210	233	255	197	233
	90%	92%	94%	95%	95%	96%	92%
Staff encourage my child to become mature and independent	251	259	214	232	245	195	246
	92%	96%	96%	95%	91%	95%	98%
There is a good range of activities that my child finds interesting and enjoyable	256	254	213	235	253	198	236
	94%	94%	96%	96%	94%	96%	94%
I am happy with the variety of extra-curricular clubs	225	226	-	-	-	-	-
	83%	84%	-	-	-	-	-
My child is not bullied or harassed at school	220	208	190	203	223	181	232
	81%	77%	85%	83%	83%	88%	92%
I am happy with the school lunches	131	188	164	203	224	170	201
	48%	70%	74%	83%	83%	83%	80%
I am satisfied with the condition of the school buildings	202	235	202	220	227	175	212
	74%	87%	91%	90%	84%	85%	84%
I am satisfied with the condition of the school grounds	190	239	213	233	248	158	225
	70%	89%	96%	95%	92%	77%	89%

Agreement with statements (continued)	Year of survey						
	2015-2016	2014-2015	2013-2014	2012-2013	2011-2012	2010-2011	2009-2010
<b>Base : All respondents</b>							
I am happy with the quality of school trips	243	253	196	209	236	185	215
	89%	94%	88%	85%	88%	90%	85%
My child was helped to settle in well when he or she started at the school	255	247	209	233	262	200	245
	94%	92%	94%	95%	97%	97%	97%
I would recommend this school to others	254	261	210	238	266	203	251
	93%	97%	94%	97%	99%	99%	100%
Taking everything into account I am satisfied with the school	257	256	207	238	265	203	251
	94%	95%	93%	97%	99%	99%	100%
I am happy with the quality of music lessons	64	52	44	43	42	36	63
	93%	79%	75%	72%	70%	69%	80%
The school has provided worthwhile help with particular learning difficulties	14	15	14	12	18	5	16
	88%	94%	93%	80%	86%	83%	94%
I am happy with the quality of breakfast club	67	69	-	-	-	-	-
	89%	90%	-	-	-	-	-
I am happy with the quality of the Fit for Sport provision	69	37	-	-	-	-	-
	95%	90%	-	-	-	-	-

## Class-linked governors

Children in the pupil leadership team have invited governors to form a special link with individual classes to strengthen the relationship between governors and children in the school. This link offers the opportunity for governors to visit the class and become a familiar face, either by reading a story, hosting a Q&A session, having an informal chat or accompanying the class on trips and outings. It is also an opportunity for governors to reflect on the impact of the work done in committees or strategic meetings - and a happy reminder of what an effective school is all about - making a difference for children! Our children love to spend time with visitors sharing their enthusiasm, latest ideas for improvement and information about what matters most to them in school. We all value the importance of “pupil voice” at East Sheen Primary and this is yet another vehicle for ensuring the adults are listening!