

# Governors' Newsletter



## Message from the Chair

The sun is finally shining at the end of another unconventional year for pupils across the country. We have been so impressed by the positivity, versatility and resilience of the whole East Sheen Primary community and as we say a sad farewell to our wonderful headteacher, Liz Page, we look forward to a bright future in the very capable hands of Debbie Canner.

This has been a busy and challenging year for schools. At ESPS, everyone has worked hard, focussing on school priorities to ensure positive outcomes for all of our pupils, whilst being ever mindful of the well-being of pupils, staff and the headship team.

A big thank you to everyone - pupils, staff and parents/carers - who submitted responses to our environmentally intelligent school surveys. The number and overwhelmingly positive nature of responses demonstrate that this is an initiative our community engages with and supports. We are confident this will be a really exciting development at ESPS, one that will enrich the education of our pupils and help them to become key contributors to the wider world.



*KS2 Sports Day at the Barn Elms athletics track*

It is always bittersweet at the end of the academic year, when we say goodbye to our Y6 leavers. They are ready to move onto the next phase of their education and we have been hugely impressed by the progress they have made this year, despite the challenges faced as a result of the pandemic. We wish all of our leavers a happy and successful future and hope that they continue to develop a love of learning at their new schools. Please stay in touch!

We say good-bye to Liz Page and wish her a very relaxing and contented retirement. It has been an absolute privilege to work with Liz. Her integrity, compassion, dedication to each and every child and passion for learning have been hugely inspirational. She will be greatly missed.



*Helen Wrigglesworth*

Our new headship team, led by Debbie Canner, will continue to be ambitious for every pupil and will continue to make innovative strides; including an exciting new offer next year in both French and Music. Debbie shares Liz's integrity, compassion, dedication and passion and we have no doubt that she will ensure that ESPS goes from strength to strength and remains: Happy, Curious, Resilient and Kind!

I wish you all a very happy summer break and look forward to welcoming you back in September.

---

# Pupil Progress

ESPS is an ambitious school, and the Governors, like the staff, want every pupil to be supported to achieve their full potential. This ambition is more difficult during the challenges of Covid, but the determination remains, and our children have made phenomenal progress this year. There is limited formal data following the cancellation of SATs, but Year 6 sat previous SATs papers and did exceptionally well. They outperformed compared to their predicted grades, and progress versus their KS1 levels was incredibly high.

The school elected to carry out the new Y4 multiplication tables check, which was optional for primary schools this year. Despite this being a new test with minimal time for each question, approaching half of pupils managed to get full marks, with the majority of others close behind.

Year 1 impressed with their Phonics Screening results, performing significantly better than expected based on predictions immediately post-lockdown.

It has been an undeniably challenging year, and some gaps in learning remain. The school has an effective plan to fill these gaps, with a focus on targeted interventions at school. This echoes the school's general approach to



*Y6 pupils*

---

promoting progress for all, and effectively differentiating to meet the learning needs of a wide range of abilities. Targeted interventions continued to take place virtually during lock down and the additional Covid catch-up budget has largely been allocated to additional resources to provide small group support and interventions.

*Emily Maltby*

If you would like to know more about the academic standards and expectations at ESPS, the governors have produced a "FAQ" document giving a lot more information. This can be accessed by clicking [[here](#)]

---

# ESPS Curriculum update

The Governors have long been confident that East Sheen Primary provides a broad, balanced and ambitious curriculum to all our children. However, we regularly carry out subject conferencing to ensure that the curriculum continues to enrich the education of ESPS pupils, as well as meeting all requirements of the national curriculum.

Governors have focused this academic year on reviewing the intent, the implementation and the impact of ESPS's curriculum across the 'foundation' subjects (beyond the 'core' subjects of maths, English and science). To do so we have met – virtually – with subject leaders in most of those subjects. We have been extremely impressed by the level of subject knowledge, the innovation and above all the enthusiasm and passion of the teachers. In particular we have been keen to understand how the curriculum is sequenced across year groups, such that children can build on their knowledge as they move through the school, and how learning in one subject area is complemented by that in another.

We are also excited that both the French and music provision at ESPS will be refreshed and expanded for the next academic year and look forward to seeing how all children can benefit from these changes.

There is a huge amount of information circulated to parents in the termly Curriculum Bulletins for each year group and, if you are interested in finding out more, we do encourage you to visit the detailed curriculum pages available on the website [here](#).

*Andrew Miller*



*Year 3 Greek Day*

# Farewell to Liz Page

It seems almost impossible to imagine East Sheen Primary School (ESPS) without Liz Page. Having taken a career break to start a family, Liz began work at ESPS 20 years ago as a part time class teacher when her own sons were pupils at the school.

She moved on to become a much-loved Y6 teacher. In 2011, Liz took over the role of Deputy Head and four years later became Headteacher.

Liz has overseen a period of growth, development and continuity. The school has seen so much superficial change and yet at heart remains the same close, supportive, ambitious community. Liz has always ensured that each and every child matters at ESPS.

Liz has presided over a significant building project, the expansion of the



Liz Page

school from two to three forms of entry and the development of the Green Wall. She's also seen ESPS become a Thinking School and achieve the Wellbeing Mark, demonstrating ESPS's commitment to both academic excellence and emotional welfare. Pupils continue to shine not only at national tests but also at sport, music, drama and art.

We will miss so much about Liz, including her kindness, her calm demeanour, and her knowledge. We know that the school won't be far from her thoughts, and we look forward to welcoming her back, whenever she might like to visit us.

Emmet Regan



Happy retirement

Thank you,  
Liz

## An Environmentally Intelligent School

At our recent governors' strategy day, we explored further our three-year goal – for ESPS to become an environmentally intelligent school which enables our pupils to understand and think critically about environmental issues, promoting global citizenship, responsibility and leadership.

An environmentally intelligent school is more than simply an eco-friendly school. Of course, we want our children to care about turning the lights off, to recycle where possible and to reduce single use plastic, but more than that we want them to think deeply about the challenges and choices that must be made. We want to make sure that we reach beyond the conventional curriculum and explicitly involve Critical Thinking at all stages, leveraging our status and outstanding practice as a Thinking School.

Our intention is to embed environmental intelligence across the curriculum, so that each year group has a clearly defined and age-appropriate environmental issue to explore. We are planning to draw on the expertise and support of the wider community – parents, carers, local businesses and local government. We will make use of outdoor learning across all year groups, exploring not only our wonderful grounds but also Richmond Park, Barnes Common and the River Thames.

Susannah Milligan



# New Faces

ESPS were delighted to welcome some new teachers this year, for this newsletter, we are going to feature 3 new teachers; Mrs Robinson (HR)); Miss Linter (LL) and Mr Shaw (CS). Here is a bit about them to get to know them!

Can you tell us a bit of background about yourself?

HR: I have been a teacher for 10 years up until last year I was teaching at a school in Earl's Court. I went to The University of Nottingham and did a degree in History.

LL: I grew up in Italy and moved to London 26 years ago. After a career in travel, I have pursued a career in education. I have worked as a TA and then decided to become a teacher.

CS: I grew up in Wolverhampton, studied in Leeds and then worked in information publishing in London, Paris and New York. After I moved to Kingston, I trained to become a teacher in 2010.

How has your first year been at East Sheen Primary?

HR: I have had a fabulous first year at ESPS. I have enjoyed getting to know my team and the wonderful pupils.

LL: My first year at ESPS has been amazing. I knew most of the staff already. When I came back I felt at home and all my colleagues made me feel welcome from the start.

CS: I was made very welcome during my first year at ESP - especially by my Year 5 colleagues and by the wonderful children in Year 5.

Jess Zayouna



Mrs Robinson



Miss Linter



Mr Shaw

And in comparison, – how did you find term two, lockdown and distance teaching?

HR: Teaching during lockdown was a new challenge but it was lovely to see how many children engaged with their learning and to receive their fantastic work via Teams.

LL: It has been an intense and challenging start of the term. I have learnt to diversify my teaching by learning new skills, to keep my lessons as vibrant and happy as possible to keep children's spirit high.

CS: Term 2 has been tricky for all of us but we can get through it together!

Describe East Sheen Primary in three words?

HR: welcoming, warm and understanding

LL: Community, Inclusive, Welcoming

CS: Kind, welcoming and ambitious.

Tell us a fun fact about yourself?

HR: I have done a sky dive over Lake Wanaka in New Zealand.

LL: I often find myself singing the instructions to the children

CS: I am writing a novel set in and around Richmond Park.

# Air Quality

We continue to work in conjunction with the LBRuT to monitor the levels of Nitrogen Oxides ('NOx') present in the air in and around the school. The latest data shows that NOx levels on site remain well below the legal threshold. The school's boundary and green wall are very effective at ensuring air quality in the playgrounds and classrooms is closer to that of Richmond Park than that of the Upper Richmond Road. Unsurprisingly, pollution levels at our monitoring locations have shown marked reductions during the lockdown periods and relative to the previous year. We are looking at what other measures could be implemented to further monitor and improve air quality at the school.

Graham Dyer

We reiterate the following advice when travelling to and from school:

- *When walking, cycling or scooting: use a route that avoids busy roads*
- *Walk, cycle or scoot to school. Exposure to air pollution can be higher inside cars*
- *Don't idle*
- *Enter/leave school by the closest entrance and keep off the road as long as possible*
- *Keep away from the kerbside. It's safer too!*

# Finance

A new financial year, new financial challenges!

Last year's financial surplus was somewhat larger than expected at the time of the last newsletter, reflecting the continuing spending uncertainties we experienced in the Spring term. But this contrasts with the current year's budget deficit, of an almost equal amount. This was always expected as we seek to catch up with spending on resources that were not acquired during the last, pandemic hit, year, and unspent portions of the Sports Premium Grant that we were allowed to carry over to this year.



We also have the benefit of Covid related grants from the government of almost £45k this year. The scheme will continue until the Summer of next year providing further additional, but smaller, grant monies in that financial year too. This year's grant is being used to employ additional classroom assistant time as well as extra working hours for existing staff. This will ensure support is available for pupils to make good progress if they are struggling on their return to the classroom as a result of lost face to face education last year. Current indications are that this is money well spent!

Graham Dyer

---

# COVID Catch-up

The government has provided additional funding to schools for the 2020 to 2021 academic year (a grant of £80 per pupil) to spend on initiatives to support pupils who have missed learning during school closure as a result of the pandemic.

Within ESPS we value highly the impact of human resources in delivering progress in children's learning. As such, the catch-up funding at ESPS has been allocated to employing additional teacher and teaching assistant time. This strategy is supported by research undertaken by the Education Endowment Fund, 'There is extensive evidence supporting the impact of high quality one to one and small group tuition as a catch-up strategy'.

[https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/Publications/Covid-19\\_Resources/Covid-19\\_support\\_guide\\_for\\_schools.pdf](https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/Publications/Covid-19_Resources/Covid-19_support_guide_for_schools.pdf)

The teaching staff have been allocated to certain year groups where the need is assessed as greatest, protecting 'bubbles' as far as possible.

The impact is that we have seen children receiving bespoke interventions that address gaps in learning and understanding, enabling them to make good progress. The 121 intervention doesn't just deliver academic benefits but also supports well-being. This has helped children with the transition back into school, easing anxieties as they know they will receive support to catch up.

Debbie Canner

## Our New Headship Team



*Donna, Debbie and Harry*

We are hugely excited to be the Headship Team next year, leading this outstanding school. Our first priority is to bring the community back together after the separation imposed by lockdown. This includes reconnecting face to face with families, communicating effectively and we cannot wait to welcome parents back into school for learning and social events. We look forward to seeing children coming together in assemblies, through our buddy system and linked classes. We are committed to the ethos and values of the school, nurturing children to be happy, curious, resilient and kind. We strongly believe in using our skills as a Thinking School and winners of the Wellbeing Award for Schools to strive for academic excellence and enjoyment of learning for all children.

We will continue to innovate and drive school improvement, seeking to go above and beyond the expectation of the national curriculum. For example, from next year French will be taught in Reception and KS1, with weekly French lessons of 45 minutes for KS2, rather than the current 60 minutes each fortnight. Our goal of becoming environmentally intelligent, something that we are pleased parents, staff and pupils are enthusiastic about, will feature in our school development plan. We aim to form partnerships with industry and academic institutions, and are passionate in our belief that this will support us in preparing the children for the challenges ahead.

We are a team with the highest aspirations for all our children and for our school. This means we will continue to focus on children's wellbeing as well as developing their skills and academic achievement. We will do this by setting high expectations for behaviour and attendance and by providing outstanding learning opportunities for every child.

**Debbie Canner – Headteacher**

**Harry Page – Deputy Headteacher**

**Donna Connor – Assistant Headteacher & SENDCo**

## Governor Information

Following the recent parent elections, we are very pleased to welcome Jess Oliver and Leon Orr as new members of the Governing Board. They bring great enthusiasm and passion for the role, which will be put to good use in support of the school. You can find out more about them on our website [here](#).

More information about the work of the governing body can be found on the school website [here](#). You can also get in touch with us via our clerk at:

[clerktogovernors@eastsheen.richmond.sch.uk](mailto:clerktogovernors@eastsheen.richmond.sch.uk)



*Jess Oliver and Leon Orr*

*Happy | Curious | Resilient | Kind*