

Governors' Newsletter



A rather ferocious band of Vikings invaded the school this term!

Message from the Co-Chairs

Welcome to the first Governors Newsletter of the new school year! New is the operative word. We have a new head, a new deputy head, a new co-chair of governors and we're planning a new build. All in all, exciting times.

At our first Governors meeting in October, Susannah Milligan decided to stand down after five years of chairing and co-chairing the Governing Body. We would like to thank her for all her tireless efforts and very hard work to help make East Sheen the amazing school that it is today. We haven't lost her skills and experience as she remains on the Board as Vice Chair.

Jessica Mellor-Clark who has been co-chairing for the past year continues in this role joined by long standing governor and former chair Raz Khan. Raz has been a governor for over ten years, serving for four years as chair. He has overseen the appointment of the last two head teachers and has a particular interest in staffing matters. His two children, Jonny and Suzy, both have very happy memories of their time at East Sheen Primary in the 1990s.

We were delighted last term to appoint Liz Page as our new head teacher. After 14 years as a class teacher and latterly as deputy head for four years, Liz has hit the ground running at a time of great

change within the school and the education system. We have every confidence that Liz will ensure the best outcomes for the school in these challenging times.

Liz is joined by our new deputy head Debbie Canner. Debbie joined the school as a teacher in 2007 and specialised in early years, teaching in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. She became part of the senior leadership team in 2012 as Literacy Coordinator. Prior to that she worked as a Business Appraisal Manager for a retail bank and has a BA in Economics. After a career break to raise her children she decided to retrain as a teacher, and we are confident that she and Liz

will make a formidable leadership team.

As you know the school will become three form of entry from September 2016. We already run three bulge years due to the increased demand for primary school places in Richmond. Formalising the arrangement gives us the opportunity for a new build to provide new classroom spaces, fully fit for purpose. The headship team and the governing body are working hard with the local authority to ensure we get the best possible build out of this once in a lifetime opportunity. We are lucky to have governors with architecture and building skills to help us with this process. We'd particularly like to thank Nicola Hawkins for putting so much time and effort into ensuring we get this right.

At the start of this term we continued the discussions on the possibility of a multi-academy trust with Barnes Primary and Richmond Park Academy. After many meetings, discussions and investigations the governing body decided to not proceed at this time. We will, of course, continue to work closely with both schools.

The teaching staff are having to adopt a new method of assessing our children's progress. The old "levels" are being scrapped, but we are still awaiting details on how assessment will work in practice. There will still be tests, but children will be marked according to whether or not they meet the expected standard. We have had many changes to the education system over the years and we are confident that we will adapt to meet the challenges of the new system.

The PTA have, as always, continued to be incredibly supportive, raising nearly £25,000 at the summer and Christmas fairs. The money enables us to fund many projects such as providing a set of tablets for a whole class to improve our teaching of the curriculum.



We would like to conclude by thanking everyone who contributes to making East Sheen Primary such a fantastic school: the staff, the parents, the children and the governors. Thank you all for your continued support in creating a first class school.

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

Thinking of becoming a Governor?

Are you curious about the ESPS governing body: who we are and what we do? If so, you'll be happy to learn that over the last term we have been collating short biographies and pictures of the ESPS governing board members and putting together a summary about how we operate, all for publication on the school website.

As you'll see we are a diverse mix of individuals with different backgrounds and skill-sets who work together in support of ESPS.

Perhaps you might be interested in joining us? If that's the case then you'll find some useful links that will help you further understand the role of Governor.

All this can be found on-line in the Governors section (under the

header "Information") of the ESPS website. You will also find published: meeting attendance records and the Register of Interests, in line with Department for Education statutory guidelines as set out in August 2015.

We will be holding an election for a parent governor in January, so please watch out for details of the application process. If you would like to discuss the work we do please contact any of us who will be delighted to talk to you.





Unsung Heroes

Ash Alexander is an ESPS dad who's been an absolute star. Ash helps out wherever he can, whether it's supporting the boys during playtimes, volunteering in the Y1 outdoor learning environment or encouraging Y5 children doing maths mastery classes. He's also accompanied children and teachers on trips when we've been short of adults as well as stepping into the breach at short notice on several occasions.

Assessment and Reporting

Levels are no longer in use as a means of assessing children's progress and attainment. In order to track children's progress we have introduced a system called "Target Tracker" along with most other schools in the borough. This allows teachers to assess whether children have met the national curriculum objectives within their year group. We will be able to use this system to inform parents of the number of steps progress a child has made during the year and whether the year group objectives have been met. It will also allow "mastery" to be shown, where children have not just met the objectives but have a deep understanding of the year group curriculum and demonstrate the ability to apply skills consistently and appropriately.

This is a new system of assessment for all of us; we will endeavour through parent consultations and at the end of the year when written reports are sent home to parents and carers to explain fully what the assessments mean and how progress can be understood within the new curriculum.

Expansion Update

Hot off the press-the plans for our build are being submitted for approval as we speak! We have been most fortunate to have governor expertise and interest in ensuring we secure a school building which not only meets our growing needs but also celebrates all that is great about East Sheen Primary. An exciting, new block will accommodate six classrooms, small group rooms, a modern library and "flexible" space. Alterations to our existing building will mean we have quality classrooms for all children. Goodbye to the low-ceilinged Y1 classes, at last! This has been an area governors have long been interested in developing, but have been restricted in strategic planning due to uncertainty about authority plans for the school. Now it is official. Cabinet have ratified permanent expansion to three form entry to provide school places for the children in our community. The Headship Team and governors have held a number of meetings with architects and project managers to develop plans that we believe will enhance our provision. A large hall in the heart of the school enables us to celebrate community in the way only East Sheen knows how! We will be singing even more loudly with our growing number of young voices-and we will be doing it all together!

Our oldest classrooms-the current 3F and 3EM-will be extended and a new astro area provided at the back of the school. The climbing frame will be relocated creating a lovely green play space overlooking the allotments. The plans will be published on the website as soon as we have our finalised copies and a link to the planning consultation will also be made available. Exciting times!





The Egyptians also came to visit

School Vision and Values

We are proud of the vision and values we hold at East Sheen Primary School. We have always believed in the importance of developing the whole child through a creative and engaging curriculum and a nurturing, inclusive environment. We observe on a daily basis the enthusiasm with which the children embrace their learning and the tremendous fun they have as they work together to solve problems.

The assemblies celebrating the year group topics pay tribute to this: the enjoyment this term of Egyptian Day, Viking Day, Sheen in the War Years and Changing Seasons, all with singing, dancing, acting, humour, confidence and knowledge is a reflection of our vision.

The Helping Hands Cup awarded weekly together with tokens to reward thoughtful behaviour show how we value kindness in school.

We use thinking maps and hats to explore our own thoughts and value those of others. We encourage every child to feel confident to have a voice and to feel valued, building up resilience.

Staff and governors share these values too, and ensure they work collaboratively and imaginatively to bring the best possible experiences into school,

enabling our children to fulfil potential and achieve the highest standards.

Our "Maths in Action" projects this term have seen children using natural materials to make symmetrical patterns, using Carroll diagrams to sort leaves and answer a series of problems for Kew Gardens, budget for and plan a real party and use the outdoor environment to explore addition and subtraction. "We had so much fun. We love maths!"

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

**Have a great
Christmas
everyone.**

