

Governors' Newsletter



Message from the Chair

As recognised by Ofsted, ESPS is “a school where everyone works together to make sure that the school is successful and a happy place for pupils to thrive”. The passion and commitment of the Headship Team, teachers, support staff, parents and governors provide our pupils with the best possible educational environment.

As my first year as Chair of Governors draws to a close, I would like to thank everyone in the ESPS community for making it the wonderful school that it is. Not only do the Headship Team, teachers and support staff go above and beyond to ensure that every child feels safe, is happy and makes good academic progress, they also give up their time to run clubs and go on wonderful residential trips. We're incredibly thankful for the support given by our parents who volunteer with reading, cooking, swimming, trips and fairs and also demonstrate incredible generosity in raising funds. I would also like to mention the governors who volunteer a huge amount of time to support the school in its drive for continuous improvement. Last, but not least, I would like to thank all our pupils for being such great ambassadors for ESPS. We are incredibly proud of you!

Pupils in every year group have continued to use their Thinking Schools tools to think critically about the environmental challenges faced by our planet. From being the guardians of the oceans and endangered animals in Reception to being the guardians of air quality in Year 6, environmental themes have been threaded through the curriculum. Our School Improvement Partner from the Local Authority was particularly impressed with how articulate Year 3 and Year 5 pupils were when talking about deforestation and sustainable fashion, and governors commented on pupils' enthusiasm and thoughtfulness following the pupil voice session on 'environmental intelligence'. The Environmental Leader has recently submitted the school's application for the 'Eco-School Green Flag' award which will recognise the ecological achievements of our pupils.

Congratulations to our Year 6 pupils who have made great progress during their time at ESPS and achieved an impressive set of SATs results. We have loved seeing them enjoy the broad curriculum on offer, excel in sport and take on responsibilities such as House Captains, Sports Captains, Playground Buddies and much more. We hope they continue to develop their love of learning and flourish in their new schools.

We hope you have an enjoyable summer break and look forward to welcoming you back in September, with a new Headship Team and a fully operational school site! [Nathalie Townley](#)



Our recent Ofsted Inspection

On April 18th and 19th 2023, East Sheen Primary School had its first visit from OFSTED inspectors in nearly 15 years. The phone call announcing the visit came on the first day of the summer term, a day of major transition for the school – the first day that the new classrooms were handed over and Harry Page’s first day as head teacher. Mr Page briefed the staff and the governors, and everyone rose, as expected, to the challenge.

Four inspectors visited the school over the two days, reviewing the provision within four broad categories (Quality of Education, Behaviour and Attitudes, Personal Development and Leadership and Management) against a four-point scale: Outstanding, Good, Requires Improvement and Inadequate. To be awarded an overall judgment of Outstanding, the Quality of Education must be judged as Outstanding.

On the first day, the inspectors conducted Deep Dives into Early Reading, Maths, Science, PE and Geography. They also participated in discussions on PSHE, Attendance and Behaviour, Safeguarding and Special Educational Needs provision, and carried out a focused SEN visit, wrapping up the day with a feedback session.

On Day Two, inspectors sampled the curriculum in RE, Art and Design, Design and Technology, History and Computing, and investigated SEN curriculum provision. They also met with eight governors and our Local Authority School Improvement Partner as part of the leadership and management assessment. Over the two days, they took part in numerous discussions with staff and pupils, and also inspected Early Years (Reception).

In the final feedback meeting, the judgment was revealed to Mr Page, the LA representative and governors, but staff and the wider community had to wait until June to learn that ESPS had been judged Outstanding in all areas.

Key findings in the report include:

Staff and pupils are rightly proud of their school. Everyone works together to make sure that the school is successful and a happy place for pupils to thrive.

Pupils enjoy their learning and achieve high standards. Teachers inspire them to do their best. Pupils have very positive attitudes and their behaviour is consistently exceptional.

Leaders have constructed an ambitious curriculum... Pupils achieve excellent outcomes... Teachers meticulously check what pupils have learned.

All staff support each other so that they can do the best for pupils. Staff wellbeing is of the utmost importance to leaders. The governing body provides excellent support to school leaders.

We are absolutely delighted with this well-deserved outcome. The staff’s amazing dedication and the pupils’ hard work were justly rewarded and we look forward to the any more outstanding years ahead.

Susannah Hart



Behaviour at East Sheen Primary

One of the key elements which made ESPS Outstanding in our recent Ofsted inspection was the behaviour of our children. Ensuring good behaviour throughout the school enables everything to run smoothly and makes sure that all pupils are ready to learn. We were delighted that this focus was recognised by the Ofsted report, which highlighted that ‘pupils have very positive attitudes, and their behaviour is consistently exceptional in lessons and around the school’.

The governing body continues to focus on behaviour to ensure it remains a priority for the Headship Team and all school staff. In our committee, we regularly discuss behaviour with the Headship Team and look for innovative methods to maintain our high standards. This year, governors approved the new Behaviour Policy which focuses on developing a relationships and trauma-informed approach to behaviour management and further supported the school in achieving the Attachment Aware Schools Award. Additionally, individual governors visit the school to ensure the policies that we use are being implemented. From these visits, it has been clear that behaviour is exceptional at ESPS. This has also been evidenced in the recent feedback from our Parent Satisfaction Survey. The governing body will continue to work with the Headship Team to maintain these high standards. [Emmet Regan](#)

A Resources Update

Once again ESPS has experienced a challenging year financially. We were not alone, as all schools were required to fund last year’s staff pay increases from their own budgets and reserves. Inevitably, schools have found budget setting this year to be arduous, what with rapidly rising costs (including the considerable energy increases we’ve all suffered), the unknown outcome of this year’s pay increases and our own decision to increase the size of the Headship Team to reflect the scale of the task in running a large primary school.

We have healthy reserves to support our current financial requirements and, with more children on roll and the hope of external funding for the pay increase, we expect to see a more stable financial position in the coming years.

Our new classrooms are now complete, with the final touches to the landscaping now underway. The rapid assembly of this four-classroom block has been gratifying to see following the delays we experienced with the groundworks before Christmas.

The classrooms and breakout rooms are a fantastic addition to the school. Of particular interest is the ‘exotic roof’ required by the Borough’s planners as part of their environmental considerations. Planting has already begun, and we will be installing cameras on the roof to enable the children to monitor the wildlife that we expect to see in this new habitat.

We’re also thrilled to announce that we’ve now committed to the installation of a new all-weather sports pitch. Work is due to start in mid-August and will be completed before the start of the Autumn Term. This is fantastic news. With its cutting-edge design, the Astroturf ensures a consistent playing surface, which will enable our children to play in all weather conditions, while the enhanced shock absorption and improved drainage will help prevent injuries. Our young athletes will really be able to hone their skills!

The funding has been achieved through a mixture of sources: monies raised by the PTA, our own capital bid with the Borough and various grants. We extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who contributed to the success of this campaign and would like to acknowledge the dedication of the parents and staff who led the fundraising efforts with unwavering enthusiasm. [Graham Dyer and Nicky Dorman](#)

Progress and achievement

ESPS governors are continually focused on ensuring the school maximises the progress and attainment for each child, whatever their strengths and their needs. We seek to do this through the delivery of a broad and exciting curriculum to inspire children to want to learn and to be the best they can be. It was heartening to see that Ofsted clearly recognise and agree with our approach, and particularly satisfying that, in addition to its Outstanding judgement for Quality of Education, the narrative report recognised that the curriculum was ambitious and that pupils enjoy their learning, have positive attitudes and achieve high standards.

We regularly visit the school to ensure that the research-informed teaching and learning practices that we discuss in committee meetings and consider important are reflected throughout the curriculum and across the school. There is no better way than seeing the children in their own environment! Our most recent Learning Walk focused on reading, in particular how it is supported across the curriculum by our excellent staff, and how their skilled and targeted questioning supports every child's learning and progress. Reading is such a fundamental aspect of

school life and supports our mission to develop confident children who think deeply about themselves and others with a curiosity and love for learning. We clearly saw this in all lessons, from Reception children learning and practising their phonics, to Year 6 children who are able to interpret and appreciate enormously complex texts and themes.

Although Ofsted's focus on measurable data is considered less intense than it used to be, it is right that, as governors, we also look at the results of national assessments to verify that our teaching and learning is on track. Once again, East Sheen has shown in its headline SATS outcomes for 2023 that we are a high achieving school, and children perform extremely well across the assessed subjects. Our Year 6 cohort achieved significantly above the national average with higher test scaled scores in each of reading, writing and maths compared with last year and we were particularly impressed with how many pupils achieved the Higher Standard (110+) in all three subjects. More detailed results will be published in due course, and governors will continue to look at the progress and attainment of all groups of children across the school, whether or not they sit national tests.

[Andrew Miller](#)



Happy | Curious | Resilient | Kind

Safeguarding

It's been a busy Summer Term! The Safeguarding Link Governor visited ESPS to conduct a mini-safeguarding audit, speaking to all key stakeholders, from children and staff to parents/carers and lunchtime supervisors. The audit aimed to identify any gaps in our practice and to confirm that we're operating in line with our Safeguarding Policy.

Safeguarding remains very much at the forefront of everyone's mind, and the school's position is strong, though we are always identifying areas for further improvement [Jess Oliver](#)

Governor Information

Three new governors have recently joined our board: Raef Jackson and Tristan Chapple on our Teaching and Learning committee and Michael Cunningham on our Resources committee. We would also like to acknowledge and thank a departing governor, Rupert Brown for his incredibly valuable contribution to the Governing Board over the last two and a half years and wish him well in his new adventures outside East Sheen.

You can find out more about who we are and what we do by visiting the school website [here](#).

We are always on the lookout for new governors and continue to work to diversify our board, welcoming interest from parents or carers from Black, Asian and other Global and Majority backgrounds. Please direct any enquiries to our clerk, Alex Watson Jones, at clerktogovernors@eastsheen.richmond.sch.uk. [Helen Wrigglesworth](#)



Happy | *Curious* | *Resilient* | *Kind*

Wishing all our departing teachers and staff well

Our teachers are instrumental in creating the community at ESPS. We would like to thank our departing teachers for all their hard work over the year. Firstly, a special thank you to Carla Hunter who is leaving ESPS after 15 years to explore new opportunities. Other departing teachers and staff are; Courtney Mower, Laura Allen, Shelley Johnson, Leyla Garcia and Emilia Hunter. Thank you for everything!

We asked a few of the departing teachers, year 6 teachers Helena Vardy (HV) and Georgie Daborn (GD) and Katerina Kalaitzidou (KK) to share some of their memories of their time at East Sheen.

What are your reflections and memories of ESPS?:

- GD: After five wonderful years at ESPS, it's time for me to say goodbye. I am hugely grateful for all of the opportunities and support I have been given. Five years have flown by and I can't quite believe it. I have been lucky enough to work in both Y4 and Y6 and have led history, geography and science as well as being part of the senior leadership team. I have seen so many children grow and achieve in so many ways and have loved sharing in these experiences. I have so many fantastic memories which I will cherish forever: PGL trips, Y6 productions and concerts, Henley Fort, themed days and teaching over Teams to name a few but most of all I will remember working with such brilliant children and dedicated staff.
- HV: It has been a pleasure to have worked at East Sheen for the last four years. As I reflect on my journey here, I have so many wonderful memories: working in both Year 5 and Year 6, the incredible staff team, PGL, the productions, the concerts, covid bubbles, topic days, leading English and working with such wonderful students and families. East Sheen Primary School is a truly special place and I feel so grateful to have been a part of such an amazing community.
- KK: It has been a wonderful experience to spend the last 7 years at ESPS both as a parent and a member of staff, and I take away so many happy memories. I have learnt a lot, worked alongside amazing colleagues, made good friends, and felt part of a very special community.

What will I miss most about ESPS?

- GD: I will definitely miss the people the most - the children, the staff and the parents. ESPS really is an amazing community and I feel privileged to have been a part of it for the last five years.
- HV: The support and sense of community have been invaluable; it is truly a special place and I will cherish the memories I have made here as I move on.
- KK: I will miss the morning smiles and greetings from the children, their energy, curiosity, honesty, and lovely personalities.

What am I looking forward to post ESPS?

GD: Next year, I'll be teaching Y6 at The Vineyard and leading UKS2. I am looking forward to the new leadership experience. I will definitely be back to visit and hope to see many of you around Sheen!

- HV: I have made the (very difficult) decision to work in a school closer to home from September, having moved away from London last year.
- KK: I am looking forward to enjoying being back home in Greece and spending more time with family and friends.

Jess Zayouna