

# Governors' Newsletter



## Message from the Chair

At the heart of our school's ethos is a commitment to providing a broad and balanced curriculum so every child has the chance to develop a deeper understanding of the world around them, a wide range of knowledge and skills, as well as a curiosity and love for learning. This has always been a priority for the governing body, alongside being ambitious for our pupils' achievements in national tests in Maths and English.

We are incredibly proud of the work our subject leaders have done over the last few years to ensure this vision is realised. Through regular conferencing with governors, subject leaders have demonstrated deep knowledge, thoughtful planning, and a clear passion for their subjects. Book looks and 'pupil voice' sessions have further highlighted the impact of their work in the classroom. I would like to extend a special thank you to our subject leaders for taking on these additional responsibilities with such enthusiasm and commitment, and for taking the time to talk to governors about their subjects.

As a school, we are always looking to improve. This year, we introduced the teaching of oracy across the curriculum, helping pupils to develop their confidence and communication skills. The senior leadership team also undertook a thorough review of the art and music curricula to ensure they continue to inspire creativity and expression. Looking ahead to next year, we are excited to bring the teaching of music back in-house, which will allow us to tailor our provision more closely to the needs and interests of our pupils.

To all our staff, and especially the headship team, thank you for the brilliant job you do every day. Your professionalism, care, and dedication are what make East Sheen Primary such a special place. You are true role models for our children.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow governors who give up countless hours to attend meetings, carry out monitoring visits, sell tickets at school fairs and even make tea and coffee for prospective parents. Your commitment and support are invaluable, and it is a privilege to work alongside you.

Wishing all our families a restful and enjoyable summer break.

Warm regards,

**Nathalie Townley**  
Chair of Governors



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# Building Artistic Skills and Confidence

Following a recent focus on making art more relevant and universal at East Sheen Primary, the governors had the pleasure of learning more about the school's Art and Design curriculum, and seeing how it is a journey of exploration, expression and confidence-building designed to nurture creativity in every child.

From Reception to Year 6, pupils develop their artistic skills through thoughtfully sequenced topics in drawing, painting, sculpture and mixed media. Each year group explores key questions such as "How can our drawings tell a story?" or "How can we create meaning with our artwork?". These encourage children to think like artists and use specialist vocabulary to evaluate and discuss their work.

Sketchbooks are a central feature of the curriculum, full of ideas and evolving from a simple record of observations and experiments in Key Stage 1 to a rich and reflective repository of ideas and artistic analysis in Key Stage 2. These books showcase each child's creative process and help build artistic confidence.

Children are also introduced to a diverse range of artists and styles, with a strong emphasis on oracy and critical thinking. As one Year 6 pupil shared: "I chose to use brush strokes like Van Gogh because his paintings inspire me."

Hearing the children talk us through their thoughts on art and art lessons at ESPS was an inspiring and happy experience and reinforced our sense as governors that art at ESPS celebrates individuality and fosters a lifelong appreciation for the arts.

**Emily Maltby**

**PPG Link Governor, Teaching and Learning Committee**

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## Safeguarding: Every Voice is Important



Safeguarding is at the heart of everything East Sheen Primary does. The school believes that every child has the right

to learn, grow and thrive in a setting where their welfare is paramount. By fostering a culture of vigilance and care, we ensure that children, staff and parents all contribute to a safe and supportive community. The school champions a proactive approach, equipping staff and students alike to speak up if something feels amiss.

Children at ESPS are taught how to stay safe both in and out of school, including online. Through age-appropriate lessons, assemblies, and workshops,

pupils learn how to recognise risky situations, seek help, and communicate their worries. The school values every voice and ensures that pupils feel confident to speak with a trusted adult whenever necessary.

Over the last few months, as governors, we have sought to engage with pupils, families and staff to ensure that our policies and procedures are understood and adhered to. We have conducted mini-audits and surveys throughout our community to ensure that safeguarding is visible and robust. We are very satisfied with the level of engagement and understanding that we found.

Safeguarding is an evolving process. ESPS is dedicated to reviewing its practices, listening to feedback, and embracing new ways to protect children in an ever-changing world. Through regular audits, staff training, and consultation with children and families, the school strives for excellence in safeguarding standards.

**Emmet Regan**

**Safeguarding Link Governor,**

**Children, Families and Community Committee**

# Focusing on Oracy



East Sheen Primary's commitment to developing pupils' communication skills took centre stage recently when members of the governing body joined staff and the pupil leadership team for a learning walk across all year groups to observe and understand the school's focus on oracy.

Oracy – the ability to express oneself fluently and confidently in speech – has been a core part of the curriculum during the year. Oracy not only boosts children's confidence, but also enriches their broader education.

The learning walk gave us a chance to see first-hand how oracy is being brought to life throughout the school. We observed classroom

activities to get a sense of how oracy is woven into everyday lessons.

In a Year 2 classroom, we witnessed children speaking confidently, while the teacher encouraged those still thinking to continue. Children worked enthusiastically in pairs, maintaining their engagement and interest in the subject at hand. Meanwhile, in Year 4, we witnessed clear enthusiasm for an English lesson. Oracy skills were very much in evidence as the children engaged respectfully in a group discussion with their teacher. In Year 5, pupils discussed story endings in pairs. The teacher invited volunteers to share their partner's ending, demonstrating attentive listening and confidence in presenting.

We were also delighted to have Ms Chaplin, the oracy lead this year, give a presentation to the Teaching and Learning Committee to explain how oracy practices are embedded in day-to-day learning. For instance, instead of waiting for children to raise their hands, teachers now choose students to answer questions, which helps ensure all children get an opportunity to speak, even those who might be a little shy. Peer-to-peer discussions during class are encouraged, as they help students hone their listening skills. Sometimes, pupils are even asked to present a peer's viewpoint rather than their own – a key part of the oracy toolkit.

**Tristan Chapple**

**EYFS Link Governor, Teaching and Learning Committee**



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# Welcoming Our New Teachers

We were fortunate to welcome three new teachers – Miss Grohs to Reception and Mrs Badhe and Mr Brown to Years 2 and 4 – at the start of the school year. We caught up with them to find out how they found their first year at ESPS.

## Lydia Grohs



**Can you tell us a bit of background about yourself?**

I was born in Germany! My dad's side of the family is German and my mum's side is Zimbabwean – a heritage I'm incredibly proud of. My mum holds the Queen's Nurse title and has always been my greatest inspiration. Her commitment to her profession and tireless work ethic continue to motivate me every day. I've always aspired to carry forward the same sense of purpose in my own career!

**How has your first year been at East Sheen Primary?**

My first year has been very rewarding. I feel so fortunate to be part of such a nurturing, values-driven community. I've grown enormously, both professionally and personally, and I'm genuinely excited about the journey ahead.

**What have you enjoyed the most about working at East Sheen Primary?**

Without a doubt, my team. Working alongside such passionate, supportive colleagues has made school feel like a second home. The children are remarkable, and the shared sense of purpose across the staff makes every day feel meaningful.

**Describe East Sheen Primary in three words:**

Inclusive, welcoming, aspirational.

**Tell us a fun fact about yourself:**

I love travelling to Italy and I'm currently learning the language. It's definitely a work in progress, but I'm slowly getting there!

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## Rosie Badhe

**Can you tell us a bit of background about yourself?**

I live in Putney with my husband and three children, who are 4, 8 and 11 years old. Days are therefore very busy for me with all the clubs, playdates and homework my own children have to do! I have been teaching since my early 20s and have worked in a variety of different schools in Surbiton, Richmond, Putney and now Sheen.

**How has your first year been at East Sheen Primary?**

I have absolutely loved my first year here! It is such an incredible school and I feel very lucky to have

been able to join an amazing team of staff and a wonderful group of children and parents. Mrs Spikereit has been a fantastic teacher to share the class with and the rest of the Y2 team have been incredibly helpful in my first year.



**What have you enjoyed the most about working at East Sheen Primary?**

My favourite thing about working here is all the wonderful children. They are so enthusiastic, kind, friendly and eager to learn. My class have definitely looked after me well this year!

**Describe East Sheen Primary in three words:**

Fun, welcoming and busy.

**Tell us a fun fact about yourself:**

I went sky diving in New Zealand!

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**Sam Brown**

**Can you tell us a bit of background about yourself?**

Outside of teaching, my biggest passion is sport. I played rugby for 12 years and I now enjoy watching it at the weekend. To be honest, I will watch anything sporty! I taught PE for 2 years before training to teach in the classroom and can't imagine doing anything else.

**How has your first year been at East Sheen Primary?**

Amazing. Teaching 4B has been a pleasure and all the staff have been great at helping me settle in.

**What have you enjoyed the most about working at East Sheen Primary?**

Learning from and working with superb staff members.

**Jess Zayouna**

Communications and Marketing Link Governor, Children, Families and Community Committee

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## Heartfelt Thanks to Parents and Carers

As we approach the end of another busy school year, the Governing Body would like to thank our wonderful parent and carer community for the incredible support you provide to our school.

We are especially grateful to our dedicated Parent Teacher Association (PTA), whose tireless efforts in organising events and fundraising activities have not only raised indispensable funds for the school, but also brought our community together in a positive and joyful way.

We would also like to thank the many parents and carers who support the school in so many other ways, often quietly and without fanfare. Whether it is volunteering to read with children, accompanying classes on trips, helping with enrichment activities, or supporting swimming lessons, your involvement helps to create a rich and varied learning environment that our pupils benefit from every day.

To those who help maintain our school grounds, contribute to the school fund, or offer their time and skills in other ways, please know that your efforts do not go unnoticed. Every act of support, no matter how big or small, plays a part in shaping the warm, inclusive, and nurturing environment that makes East Sheen Primary so special.



**Describe East Sheen Primary in three words:**

An outstanding place.

**Tell us a fun fact about yourself:**

I have an identical twin brother who is also a teacher!

Every family is unique and contributes in its own way. It is this diversity of support that strengthens our school community and helps to provide the very best opportunities for our children to grow, learn, and thrive.

**Helen Wrigglesworth**  
**SEND Link Governor, Resources Committee**

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## Governor Information

You can find out more about who we are and what we do by visiting the school website here:  
<https://www.eastsheen.richmond.sch.uk/page/?title=Governors&pid=8>

Although we are not currently recruiting, we are always keen to hear from anyone interested in becoming a governor 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, Kate Laidlaw, at [clerktogovernors@eastsheen.richmond.sch.uk](mailto:clerktogovernors@eastsheen.richmond.sch.uk)

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