

# Governors' Newsletter



Year 2 at the Science Museum

## Message from the Co-Chairs

We have had a great start to the school year. The build finally started over the summer, with expansion of the headship team's offices and the kitchen, and the new two-storey Y5 and Y6 block will be completed in March. As part of the expansion to three forms we appointed Rebekah Palmer as Assistant Head with Special Educational Needs (SEN) responsibility. She is undertaking an intense year-long training course while supporting Liz Page and Debbie Canner in managing the many

projects going on in the school. We congratulate the leadership team on their resilience in managing the expansion project while ensuring that we do not lose our focus on educating our children.

Our ambition to become an accredited Thinking School is progressing well and we are planning for our assessment in March. On a recent Governor learning walk we saw plenty of evidence of how the children are embracing the tools to help

them think and plan including an incredible 3D circle map suspended between Reception and the Cedar Lodges. We are delighted that the children spontaneously talk about the Habits of Mind in helping them play well together.

Each of our governors is linked to a class in the school and has the opportunity to meet the children, attend their assemblies and go on trips. As you might imagine our children are incredibly kind and welcoming

to their governors and make them feel at home instantly.

We welcomed Ross Cansick to our governing body this term. He has a financial background and will be bringing additional support to Graham Dyer and his Resources Committee, managing our budget and ensuring we get best value in all our expenditure.

There is a parent governor vacancy and we will be holding an election early in the new year. Parent governors provide vital input to the governing body, bringing valuable expertise and personal experience of the school. If you would like to help please consider standing for election, and even if not, we encourage you to participate by voting. If you are curious about how we operate and would

like to know more please talk to anyone on the governing body.

We would like to thank, as always, our PTA for the incredible fundraising efforts. This year the Christmas Bazaar raised over £14,000 and we are in discussions over how best these funds can be used to help improve our school.

Finally, we hope you have a happy Christmas and a great break, and we look forward to welcoming you all back in the New Year.

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

PS the above article includes the four key words relating to our school vision. Can you and your children find them all?

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## Learning Walk About Our Thinking School



**A Suspended 3D Bubble Map in Reception**

The governors were delighted to join members of the Pupil Leadership Team and Liz Page on a Learning Walk this term. As we are preparing for accreditation as a Thinking School in 2017, the focus of the walk was evidence of Thinking School strategies embedded into the teaching and learning culture of the school. It is clear that children and teachers use a range of maps throughout the school, with real hoop bubble maps in the outdoor area of Reception and map displays in every classroom, often as part of a “working wall” as children collect ideas and new knowledge to share. We saw evidence of bubble maps being used to extend children’s descriptive vocabulary-another school focus this year- and double bubble maps used to compare and

contrast, including differences and similarities between a variety of 3-D shapes which then helped children to formulate impressive mathematical sentences to describe the properties defining each shape. Flow maps are a favourite, helping children organise their thoughts and structure paragraphs, a simple planning tool for extended writing. We saw displays with tree maps helping children sort and categorise and a very relevant “Anti Bullying” display using the thinking hats to reinforce our vision that all children should be happy and kind.

We also saw the hats in action, with children demonstrating White Hat thinking as they searched for facts in non-fiction texts, Blue Hat thinking as they explained the process to solve mathematical problems, Red Hat thinking to explain their feelings about their learning and some Black Hat thinking from a child who had to focus on multiplication while the rest of the class talked division to reinforce the concept of inverses.

Habits of mind are all about attitudes and behaviour for learning. We certainly saw children working together, persevering, prepared to have a go and learn from mistakes, listening respectfully to others and striving for accuracy. The Thinking School philosophy fits very comfortably with our school vision to nurture children who are happy, curious, resilient and kind.

# School lunches



## A delicious chicken curry

In our last newsletter we discussed the results of the Parent Satisfaction Survey and the significant fall in the satisfaction of our school lunch provision.

Since the summer the Leadership Team has met regularly with our caterers - Pride - to review how to reverse this trend and ensure that families are feeling positive about the quality of lunch.

As a result, and following consultation with the children, menus have been revised. The children's voice continues to be heard via feedback cards and through the Pupil Leadership Team (PLT). A number of parents have joined their children for lunch and it has been encouraging to receive positive feedback of their experience, *"Thank you for allowing me to come in to share lunch with the Reception children today. It was so nice to see all the children eating well and helping each other out, and the dinner was delicious ..."* Any negative feedback is also shared with Pride so that all comments are incorporated into action plans.



## The very healthy and varied salad bar

This term the school has also been reviewing all the arrangements around the lunchtime experience at school for both school and packed lunch. Plans to change the organisation of lunchtimes are being finalised ready for launch in the Spring Term. The children will be fully involved in these actions, indeed there will be leadership opportunities for some pupils. We look forward to some exciting change ahead.



**Year 6 Egyptian Day**

# 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

And the snappy distilled version which the children have embraced:

**Happy, Curious, Resilient and Kind**

# Link Governor's Report

by Raz Khan



## Year 4 in the Anderson Shelter at the IWM

I am the link governor for Class 4F, Miss Fuller's class, and I've been delighted with the welcome I've been given. I joined 4F on a trip to the Imperial War Museum in November. We met in school and I'd been allocated a group of children whose main role was to make sure I didn't get lost on the trip - they all introduced themselves and made me feel completely at home in their company. We took a private double decker bus to the museum and I was very impressed by how well museums cater for school trips, with a separate entrance, storage facilities and even a lunch room. Once we had deposited our belongings we set off enthusiastically to look at the excellent exhibits. The main atrium is filled with planes, boats and trucks and we all enjoyed exploring. There was a Harrier Jump Jet suspended in the air alongside a Spitfire, as well as the smallest boat to take part in the Dunkirk evacuation. The children regaled me with their knowledge of the various items on display.

After lunch we spent time exploring the detailed exhibits on life in the blitz as well as an excellent account of the first world war. We found various items to draw including samurai swords surrendered by Japanese officers, a plane carcass recovered from a desert island, and a model house of a war time British family. The children did some splendid drawings.

Finally it was time to go back to the bus and head back to school after an interesting, but sometimes exhausting, trip.

It was wonderful for me as a governor to see our children in action for a meaningful period of time - it's been many years since my children were at East Sheen Primary - the children demonstrated all the values for which our school is known and I was proud to be with them



Since the trip I popped along to the KS2 Carol Concert where 4F greeted me with unbridled enthusiasm. I would like to thank the class, and Miss Fuller, for making me feel so welcome, and I look forward to spending more time with them throughout the year.

## New Governor Ross Cansick



Hi, I'm Ross. I've had a varied career to date as an accountant - having worked in practice at PwC, and in industry (presently at Virgin Media) but also having spent 4 years in between as a finance tutor, helping people to pass their accounting qualifications.

Previously, after my daughter was born, I volunteered as treasurer for the Chiswick NCT branch for over 2 years, but stepped down after having moved to Richmond earlier this year. As a result, I looked towards lending my financial experience to help at ESPS, which in fact was where some of my oldest friends used to go!

Since starting at the beginning of autumn term, the governor committee and teachers have warmly accepted me into the group and it's been great to see how much work goes into putting the children first and the steps taken to improve their education and experience at the school. I look forward to being a part of this, and helping keep ESPS a place where children love to come.

## Parent Governor Election Nominations open in January

There will be a parent governor election in February and we will be asking for nominations in January. It would be enormously helpful if parents standing for election had a willingness to keep up to date with, and undertake training related to, special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in primary education. It is likely that any new governor will be asked to sit on the Teaching & Learning Committee and this committee includes monitoring SEND matters in its remit. It is not necessary for you to already have a working knowledge of SEND issues, or that you have a child with special educational needs or a disability, but rather that you would be willing to invest the time in training so that you could support the full governing board with matters such as:

- Helping to raise awareness of SEND issues at governing body meetings;
- Ensuring that the school's notional SEN budget is appropriately allocated to support pupils with SEN; and
- Helping to review the school's policies on provision for pupils with SEN.

We are fortunate in that we have an experienced governor who currently is our SEND governor and would be able to provide support and mentoring to a new governor training to take on the role. The board subscribes to packages of face to face and on line training packages and any new governor would have full access to this training.





**The Year 5 Vikings are pillaging again!**

## Build Update



It has been a very exciting time as we have watched the swift progress of the construction of our new classroom block. The children have loved watching the machinery at work, especially the diggers and cranes! The roof has been sealed and now the construction team is busy at work inside the new walls, installing cables and services to equip our fantastic new classrooms. The new interactive whiteboards have been ordered and the toilet door colours chosen! We plan to move in at the end of March.

We have been delighted with the partnership the school has developed with Thomas Sinden. They truly deserve their accreditation as "Considerate Constructors". They keep us fully briefed and listen carefully to our needs and requirements.

The school is so proud of how sensible the children have been during this time of limited space. They have been very flexible indeed, even appreciating the need for the "no football" ruling! We would also like to thank all parents and carers who have shown great patience and understanding when coming into school through different access points and having to walk "the long way round" at pick up times. Seeing the progress of the new block and the proposed improvements throughout the school, inside and outside, confirm that this project will deliver long term benefits for the children and the community. With new landscaping, a hall to accommodate everyone and fabulous classrooms for every year group, it will be the dawn of a new era. We will reclaim outside space once the Y1 classrooms are demolished and astro turf will be laid beneath the reassembled and reconfigured climbing frame. We are delighted that we will be able to accommodate 3 form entry in a school fit for purpose at the highest level. There is much to look forward to!

### **And a brief note on drainage**

We have been in discussions with the borough, Thomas Sinden (our building contractors) and the planning department to try to resolve the drainage problems in the Putney playground. We hope they will agree that now is the time to get it done.



**Laura Dennis**

## Unsung Heroes

Laura has been part of the East Sheen Primary School Team since 2003 and is certainly a well-established member of our community! Laura's own children, Matthew (20) and Sarah (16) started their school lives here with us and Laura has stayed on as a conscientious, reliable and hard-working midday supervisor, keeping the dining and hall areas clean and tidy every day. Laura has also been involved in Breakfast Club from the very start, where she sets up before the children arrive at 7.45am, prepares the breakfast and supervises the children at play. We all know how valuable a positive start to the day and a happy lunchtime are for ensuring children enjoy their school experience. Thank you, Laura, for the important contribution you make for our children every day.



**Y6 Egyptians,  
Reception Builders  
and Y2 at the Science  
Museum**

