



The Kenn & Kenton Federation

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Governor Newsletter - Spring 2015

Despite being a short spring term, it has certainly been a busy one for children, staff and the governing body. The second term of the academic year has seen the management and leadership team of Mrs Somerwill, Miss Slack and Mr Baxter establish and embed their roles to excellent effect within the schools and across the federation.

As a governing body we would like to congratulate everyone on the recent Ofsted inspection at Kenn. It was identified that our executive headteacher and the head of teaching and learning are providing determined and focused leadership to improve teaching and raise achievement further. As a governing body it was acknowledged that we are effective in ensuring that the school is challenged and that there is ongoing commitment to school improvement. Well done everyone, particularly to the children who took the visit completely in their stride!

A significant focus of the spring term has been on monitoring. School governing bodies are created by law and their roles and responsibilities are set out in law. This is an opportunity to remind you, that each member of the governing body has a subject area of responsibility and will visit school to evaluate development in this area, linking back to the specifics of the school improvement plan. We continue to ask challenging questions to ascertain effectiveness of progress and attainment and the impact of change. Julie Gibbs and Warren Knight met with Miss Slack and Mr Baxter to assess progress made against each element of the school improvement plan in the autumn term, as well as monitoring the impact of the new roles. Jan Caig and Leigh Mansfield visited both schools to evaluate progress and interventions associated with this and how it is optimising learning for the children.

In this newsletter we would like to take the opportunity to discuss safeguarding and its process. There can be no issue of greater importance to parents and carers, or to our schools, than the safety of our children; safeguarding therefore remains high on our agenda. Safeguarding can be summarised as:

- Protecting children from maltreatment
- Preventing impairment of children's health or development
- Ensuring children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- Undertaking that role so as to enable those children to have optimum life chances to enter adulthood successfully

The safeguarding governor and nominated staff member play an essential role in ensuring oversight and scrutiny of safeguarding policy, procedure and practice. The people in these roles are Carol Smith and Amanda Somerwill.

Learning Together

Responsibilities include monitoring the safeguarding policies, ensuring a robust system is in place for recording, storing and reviewing child welfare concerns and ensuring that all training is up to date. If any parent has any concerns or questions relating to this, then please direct those concerns to the designated people. Safeguarding is everyone's business and responsibility.

The School Data Dashboard figures are now available. This information provides a snapshot of the school performance at KS1 and KS2. The intention is that this data complements the Ofsted inspection and provides analysis of results over a three year period. However, for schools with cohorts as small as ours, where one child can represent between 7-20% of the year group, such data must be interpreted in context. Both Kenn and Kenton are extremely proud of their inclusive ethos and at times this will impact on the School Data Dashboard.

As we head towards the summer term, monitoring progress and effectiveness in line with the school improvement plan will remain our focus. We equally look forward to continuing development and success of our new structure, as it approaches the end of the first academic year. We would like to wish you all a very Happy Easter.

