



# The Kenn & Kenton Federation

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## GOVERNOR NEWSLETTER – October 2016

It's mid - October already and we are well into this school year. The Governors would especially like to welcome all new families to the Federation and hope you will enjoy all aspects of school life and that the children have settled in well. We also welcome the staff who joined us in September and hope the same for you.

As Governors, one of our responsibilities is to monitor educational achievement and progress, so we are very pleased to see that both schools' year 6 results last summer were above both Devon and National averages. We congratulate the staff and children on their hard work in achieving this. With the new assessment system, it has been challenging and stressful to make the transition, but clearly this is working out well. Through our meetings and monitoring visits, the Governors will continue to support and challenge staff in maintaining this direction. The focus of our monitoring this year will continue to be on Maths, on development of the broader curriculum, together with writing and on children with particular needs. We will also be following up on our delightful visits last year when we met children in both schools, as we continue to look closely at behaviour and safety.

Another challenging aspect of our work is financial – trying to ensure that the ever-diminishing budget is working to the Federation's best advantage. Mrs Somerwill and our finance governors work extremely hard on balancing this so that the available resources can go as far as possible especially in our priority areas. So far, so good, but each year is more challenging.

We are very proud that we are able to offer both breakfast club and afterschool club, as we are very aware that for working parents this can be essential. Again there are financial constraints, so we are number dependent, but long may these continue. We also greatly value the Community Forums and having a parent governor on these is a great link. As The Governing Body is charged with becoming more and more strategic, we need to make sure that we are very aware of other perspectives on the schools, with those of the children and their families being by far the most important. Our parent governors manage a difficult job keeping their 'parent hats' and 'governor hats' separate.

As governors of this Federation, we know we are very lucky to have such good relationships with the two schools and to have excellent training available to support us here in Devon. We are volunteers from all sort of backgrounds, but we have one shared aim which is to do our best to keep this Federation as one of the best in the area.