

KEA SCHOOL GOVERNORS

SPRING TERM 2019

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR GOVERNORS

There are three categories of governors, some are appointed and some are elected. At Kea we have three elected Parent Governors: Simone Stevens (children in years 1,4 and 5) Rachel Bateman (years F, 5 and 6) and Tracy Baker (years 1 and 4). Our Local Authority Governor is Sarah White (Children in years 3 and 5) and we have two Staff Governors, Katherine Warren and Simon Miles.

The remaining five governors are Co-opted, Marc Baker, Maureen Woodhouse, Martin Rowe (child in year 5), Matt Jobe and Wendy Vincent (who is new to the governing body). Finally, Karen Jackson and Martyn Alvey are Associate Governors; they have a more advisory

role with fewer responsibilities.

Last term we discussed Health and Safety and Safeguarding. We reviewed our school data and discussed the results. Having attached a governor to each year group, we received reports on those classes visited so far and discussed the ways in which Governors can be involved with the pupils and staff. We received reports from Governors on events and activities seen this term and meetings held with members of staff, such as the SENDCO. Of course, we discussed changes afoot in the Ofsted system and education at large and finally, we reviewed and approved more policies.

At the **Teaching and Learning (T&L) committee** we got to grips with the school curriculum and timetabling, and Sarah Walker gave an excellent presentation on how we are developing independence and resilience amongst the children in Year F.

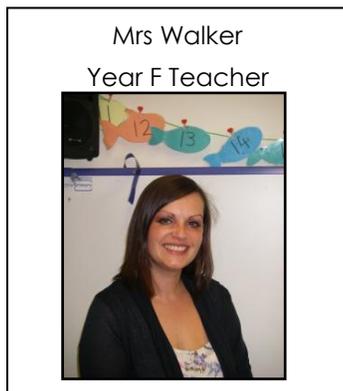
The Resources and Safeguarding committee received very positive feedback from the Health and Safety surveys of the school and also from the Safeguarding visit by governors. When discussing school finances, it was pointed out that, as money is limited, Kea School Friends will be asked to fund some essential school items, including the refurbishment of the playground equipment.

Appointed Governors



If there is anything that you would like to discuss, you can have a chat with one of us and we can always find out the answer or send you on to someone who can help!

TEACHER FOCUS – MRS WALKER (YEAR F)



At the last T & L meeting, Mrs Walker explained the different ways that our children are taught to be more independent as soon as they start school. They use toys to practice how to use tongs and pour water in the canteen at lunchtime. They help each other zip up coats and get into

puddlesuits, look after their own belongings and are growing in confidence amongst their friends and in their learning. Mrs Walker has noticed the difference that a structured approach to this has made and she is very perceptive in her understanding of EYFS children and their uniqueness! It was fantastic to get this insight into a most important part of our school. Thank you Mrs Walker!

RECENT GOVERNOR VISITS

Foundation Class Visit

"There is good team work between the adults in the class.

Everyone is fully focused on the children. They treat the children with care and respect and encourage them to be independent."

Maureen Woodhouse

Meeting the new SENCO

"Lorna has a real interest in individual children and has great ideas on how best to help them learn"

Sarah White

Progress with the School Development Plan

As Governors, we are responsible for monitoring the implementation of our School Development Plan (SDP). Katherine Warren and the Senior Leadership Team compile this document each September. Here is some feedback on progress in two key areas:

Mathematics

The Teaching and Learning committee heard that “the Maths Mastery approach is impacting throughout the school and having a positive impact on Maths attainment. Mrs. Green has been carrying out Maths monitoring. More learning that is independent is apparent in classes and children have grown in confidence with their Maths.”

Literacy at KS2:

“The quality of writing was very good – and this again is a direct focus of our SDP, so it is great to see a lesson focused on improving the quality of writing at this level.

Tracy Baker, Year 6 lesson

Governors' Recent Activities:

- Simone Stevens is now the governor with oversight of Literacy and Martin Rowe has responsibility for oversight of Maths.
- The Annual Governor Conference in Penzance was attended by Sarah White and Tracy Baker in October
- We have reviewed policies on Safeguarding and Child Protection, Teacher and Support Staff Pay, among others ...
- Years F, 1, 3, 4 and 6 have all been visited by their Governors and the others will be visited soon!
- Marc Baker has visited the school to check on our Safeguarding and Sarah White has met with our new SENCO Mrs Drzymala to evaluate progress and any need for more resources.
- We discussed the Christmas Tree service and have decided that next year it may be best to have two; EYFS/KS1 and KS2 so there is more space for everyone.

Safeguarding

- Safeguarding is on the agenda of every Governors' meeting. Matt Jobe has recently done a Health and Safety tour of the school with Miss Warren, and Mark Baker has produced a safeguarding report for the Governors. As Governors we consider this every time we are in school.

- Mrs White had recently visited foundation class and reported that the children were aware of the different coloured lanyards and what they meant. They also knew what to do if they see a visitor with a red lanyard who is unaccompanied by a member of staff.
- Marc Baker visited the school at lunch time and he reported how impressed he was by the children's confidence and it was apparent that children feel safe and well cared for at school and know what to do if they have a problem.

Finance and Buildings

- Overall the school is clean and tidy and well maintained
- The school has recently introduced a new iPad signing in system to cope with the GDPR requirements.

Reports of all governor visits to school are published on the 'Governor Visit Reports' section of the school website.

This newsletter aims to keep you informed about the Governors' work and we're keen to receive your views and opinions. Is there anything you'd like to know more about? Have you got any ideas you'd like the Governing Body to consider? Then please get in touch! You can contact the Governors by writing or emailing to us at the school. We may first discuss matters with the Head Teacher and the Chair of Governors before issues are considered by the full Governing Body.