

# KEA SCHOOL GOVERNORS

AUTUMN TERM 2019

## SETTLING IN FOR 2019/2020

Now that everyone is back in the swing of the Autumn term and new parents and pupils have joined us, we can reflect on the successes of last year and look forward to the year ahead. As Governors we are very proud of our Ofsted report from last year and also our SATS results for Years 2 and 6. What a brilliant achievement for both our staff and pupils! Of course, a school is about much more than published results and that is where Kea has always scored very highly. We are continually delighted with the cheerfulness, politeness and positive attitude that characterizes our wonderful school whenever we have the opportunity to visit...

## LOOKING BACK AND LOOKING FORWARDS

Last year 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 and discussed the ways in which Governors can be involved with and support the pupils and staff. We received reports from Governors on events and activities and meetings held with members of staff, such as the SENCO. 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. Our school uses a four year rolling programme which means that the same subjects are covered in different ways in all year groups 1-6 at the same time. Special days are devoted to children working in mixed year groups to provide a stimulating learning experience. They may do Victorian cookery; make models together; excavate artifacts and even recreate

the Great Fire of London – obviously under close supervision! This is one way in which the education at Kea is special and differs from many other schools. Also, in order to benefit from staff expertise, subject specialist teaching takes place in KS2 classes during the afternoons for subjects such as PE, art, DT, music, French and science. As Governors we are proud that our school can do this!

**The Resources and Safeguarding committee** received very positive feedback from the Health and Safety surveys of the

school and also from the regular Safeguarding visits by governors. When discussing school finances, this group

recognized that, as money is limited, Kea School Friends will be asked to fund some essential school items,

including the refurbishment of the playground equipment.

## Meeting three Governors

Maureen Woodhouse  
Local authority  
Governor



Marc Baker  
Coopted Governor



Wendy Vincent  
Coopted Governor



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!

## Walking with Matt Jobe

In October we received a report on a recent Health and Safety tour of the school by Governor Matt Jobe and Mrs Hunkin. Every nook and cranny of our school has been assessed and any remedial action required has been logged and will be sorted out by responsible school staff or Interserve, who are our PFI partners with responsibility for the school premises. Even cobwebs were noted, untidy cupboards and tricky locks. There was nowhere for clutter and grime to hide! We are impressed with the care taken to maintain a clean and safe environment for our staff and children.

## RECENT GOVERNOR VISITS

### Tour with Year 6 Visitor Ambassadors

"These pupils are a credit to the school and also to their parents. They are confident, use appropriate eye contact, and speak clearly. They had planned their talk meticulously."

**Maureen  
Woodhouse**

### Year 5 Literacy lesson

"The lesson had a momentum that made it apparent that learning goals would be met"

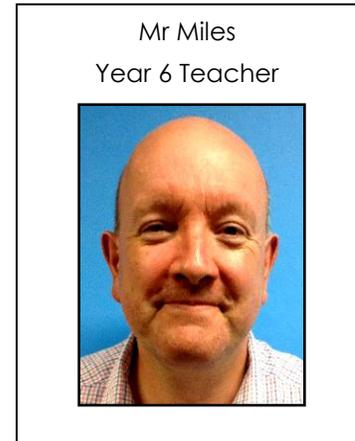
**Wendy Vincent**

## TEACHER FOCUS – MR MILES (YEAR 6)

Mr Miles has been teaching Year 6 at Kea School for three years.

Mr Miles absolutely LOVES teaching year 6 – he has really found his niche, he says! According to Mr Miles, the children at Kea are motivated, responsive, polite, well-mannered and keen to learn ... apparently

not all children are like this in other schools?! This summer Year 6 achieved the best SATS results ever! When asked by a Governor the pupils said that they enjoyed all different subjects, valued the opportunities that Kea gives for trips and school productions and they felt completely prepared for both SATS and the transfer to



secondary school. This is a wonderful achievement and is testament to the skills and efforts of Mr Miles and the other teachers at Kea.

### Progress with the School Development Plan

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

#### **Mathematics**

Governor Wendy Vincent now has oversight of this subject. She accompanied Mrs. Green on a Maths Learning Walk in the summer term, observing the teaching of Maths in Years F, 1, 2 and 6. Maths lessons in Year 3 were also observed separately by Wendy Vincent and Rachel Bateman. This is all part of Governors monitoring progress in a key area of school development. It was noted that our recent investment in Maths Mastery is paying dividends with children really enjoying their maths lessons. Growing in confidence and gaining higher levels of achievement. There are also extra activities available to help stretch the most able.

**Spelling:**

Simone Stevens has oversight of Literacy. Mrs. Olive recommended and implemented a new spelling scheme by Nelson which is now in use across the school to help further raise achievement in this area.

**Here are the key points of focus for this year's SDP:**

- All teaching to be at least good and a high proportion of outstanding teaching throughout the school.
- Continue to raise standards throughout the school in order to maximise progress for all children and particularly boys and the more able children.
- Review the school curriculum, including the Four Year Rolling Programme.
- Review of homework.
- Increase inclusion opportunities for all children.

This provides us with a strategy for taking Kea School forward for 2019/2020.

**Year Group Link Governors 2019/20**

Foundation Tracy Baker

Year 1 Sarah White

Year 2 Wendy Vincent and Matt Jobe

Year 3 Simone Stevens

Year 4 Rachel Bateman

Year 5 Maureen Woodhouse and Martyn Alvey

Year 6 Marc Baker

**Governors' Recent Activities:**

- Mrs Hunkin has given her termly headteacher report to the Governors in October. It is very detailed, reporting on school aims, the quality of teaching and learning across the school, data and exam results and staff development.
- Wendy Vincent has joined our Governing body, bringing expertise in Mathematics.
- Maureen Woodhouse has toured the school with our Year 6 Visitor Ambassadors and her report is on the school website.

- Tracy Baker has visited Year F to see how they have settled in. The report is on the school website.
- We have reviewed policies on medical issues, drugs, safeguarding and child protection issues among others.
- Marc Baker has visited the school to check on our Safeguarding. He visited the school at lunch time and reported how impressed he was by the children's confidence. He noted it was apparent that children feel safe and well cared for at school and know what to do if they have a problem.
- Sarah White has met with our SENCO Mrs Drzymala to evaluate progress and any need for more resources.
- We attended the KS2 production of Hoodwinked. Kea continues to produce outstanding KS2 productions every summer in which all pupils are involved in singing and dancing and Y6 pupils excel in their acting.
- In July Tracy Baker visited year 6 and gained their views on the following topics:
  - What subjects have you particularly enjoyed learning about in Year 6?
  - Can you describe some memorable school-based activities, events or days?
  - What advice would you give to someone coming in to Year 6 from Year 5?
  - Year 6 productions – what benefits are there from doing these?
  - SATS – how well prepared did you feel? What advice would you give to students doing them next year? Was SATs Breakfast a good idea?
  - Secondary Transfer – How do you feel about moving to secondary school? Have you got all the information you need, or do you still have any questions?

It is useful to find out how our pupils feel about their time at Kea in a structured way. The responses to these questions were remarkably well thought out and gave great evidence of how the pupils truly value their time at Kea.

*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. If you would like to contact the governors then please email [governors@kea.cornwall.sch.uk](mailto:governors@kea.cornwall.sch.uk)