



RIVERBRIDGE REVIEW

Summer term

Week 13

18th July 2017

This Review is a chance to reflect on the year and to celebrate all the positive things that have taken place. The children have applied themselves to their work really well this year and can be proud of the efforts that they have made. I know that the staff were very happy to receive both your kind words and presents today. On behalf of them all, a profound thank you.

Attached to this newsletter is a letter from Laura Ellis Philip, the Chair of Governors. On Friday, the termly Governors' meeting took place. It was a positive meeting and an indication of where the school is now and the journey it has been on. We have indeed done a lot this year and I know that the staff are looking forward to continuing the school development journey in September (after a well-deserved rest and a chance to recharge the batteries!)

Thank you for the continued support you are offering the school. I hope that you all have a lovely summer and we look forward to seeing you all again on September 4th for the start of the new academic year.

A few 'highlights of the year'



All the children voted for their new House Teams in May



We were runners up in the Spelthorne Schools Quiz in November.



The school community have come together to create over 90 Story Sacks



The trim trail at KGB has been developed over the course of the year.



The PTA bought new dictionaries and thesauri across the school.



Children enjoyed creating their own 'poet-trees' during English Curriculum Week.

Staff Moving On

As any school approaches the end of the academic year, there is a need to say goodbye and thank you to those staff that are leaving.

On Friday we said a big thank you to Mrs Hall for all the efforts she has made for Riverbridge over the many years she has been at the school. This well-attended and happy celebration was a fitting end to her time here.

Yesterday's assembly was an opportunity to wish Miss Goddard, Miss Smith and Miss Gage 'all the best'. Miss Goddard is moving to another school to have an exciting opportunity to work in a Nursery classroom. Miss Smith will be relocating nearer to her family home in the North of England and will continue to be successful I am sure. Miss Gage will also be relocating closer to home, Australia. We wish her a safe journey home and thank her for her efforts this year.

Miss Harvey will be leaving the Nursery today and I know that she will be missed by the team. Lastly Mrs Smith, a highly valued member of our office and breakfast club is leaving to start a new life in Cornwall. We all wish her all the very best in her new life.

To all the above staff, a big thank you for the commitment you have shown to the school and good luck with the next stage in your careers.

Charity Cake Sale

Whole School

I have heard that the charity cake and sweet sale that was held after school yesterday raised over £170 for Great Ormond Street Hospital. What a great effort! Well done to Rose, Lily, Layla, Bethany and Lucia for their hard work!

Spelthorne Skills And Careers Fair Thurs 21 Sept, Kempton Park Racecourse, 10am To 7pm

The event is for all pupils from Y7 upwards and adults looking for employment, to change roles or to upskill. If you have any queries please email Christine Cudmore at Kenyngton Manor Sure Start Children's Centre Cudmore_c@kenyngtonmanor.org or Rebecca Denyer at the Job Centre: Rebecca.deny1@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

Healthy Schools Silver Award and the School Council

Whole School

I am pleased to say that the school has now got the Surrey Healthy Schools Silver Award. I have planned a project to take place to encourage the children to feel safe by expressing their feelings and opinions in school. The school council have had a big part to play in receiving this award as they carried out class questionnaires about feeling safe and expressing their opinions. We then collated the answers and decided that weekly circle time and worry boxes in each class would be the two key things we will focus on. The school council have already made sure worry boxes are in each class and we will introduce weekly circle times across the school from September. I am very proud of the school council and have really enjoyed working with them this year. Thank you to Sam W, Nixon P, Oscar L, Dylan F, Daniel W, George D, Joshua M, Tallulah S, Sam G, Ellee H, Farah B, Kayleigh B, Rachel J and Reynolds T. You have all been a super team! Miss Snow PSHE Subject Leader

Outside Achievements

Rose Platt came into school yesterday with a medal and shield celebrating her as 6th Staines 'Cub of the Year'. Well done Rose a very special award to receive.

Gold Leaves

Whole School

The very final gold leaves of the year were handed out on Monday. The select band below can be proud

to have reached this accolade at the end of the year. Well done to them all!

Taylor Hayden
Manveen Phagora
Jude Dickinson
Logan Jones

Khushal Zakka
Teagan Kennedy
Sumukh Gowda

Lorraine Yting
Heidi Staff
Jerri-James Mercer

Happy holidays! Enjoy a restful and sun-filled break!

Paul Grimwood
Headteacher

Dates for the diary...

SUMMER TERM 2017

Mon 31st July- Fri 11th August Lumen Summer Fun

AUTUMN TERM 2017

Friday 1st Sept INSET DAY 1
Mon 4th Sept Children return to school (Years 1-6)
Nursery children(remaining in Nursery) return to school
Tues 12th Sept Story Sack Launch more details to follow
Weds 13th Sept Yr 6 Junior Citizen more details to follow
Thurs 14th Sept Yr 6 Junior Citizen more details to follow

Mon 23rd - Fri 27th Oct

Half Term

Monday 30th Oct Children return to school
Thurs 2nd Nov Yr 6 trip Children at War
Mon 6th Nov Yr 6 Bikeability Level 2
Thursday 21st Dec End of term for children- 1.20pm KGB, 1.40pm Nursery, 1.30pm PAB

SPRING TERM 2018

Thursday 4th Jan Children return to school
Fri 9th Feb INSET DAY 2

Mon 12th - Fri 16th Feb

Half Term

Mon 19th Feb Children return to school
Thurs 22nd Mar Yr 2 Pedals
Fri 22nd Mar Yr 2 Pedals
Thurs 29th Mar End of term for children- 1.20pm KGB, 1.40pm Nursery, 1.30pm PAB

SUMMER TERM 2018

Mon 16th Apr Children return to school

Mon 28th May-Fri 1st June

Half Term

Mon 4th June Children return to school
Tues 17th July End of term for children- 1.20pm KGB, 1.40pm Nursery, 1.30pm PAB
Wed 18th July INSET DAY 3
Thurs 19th July INSET DAY 4
Friday 20th July INSET DAY 5



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Executive Principal: Mrs M E McCarthy MA Ed.M

Message from the Chair of Governors

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's my great pleasure to write to you today safe in the knowledge that our school is doing really well! The SATS results shared with you by Mr Grimwood on Friday paint a picture of a stable and successful school, one that is able to build on its strengths and ensure year-on-year improvement. We are a long way from the school of two years ago that required extra support and we are now a firm partner in the Lumen Learning Trust support network. We benefit from the support that comes with being part of the Trust, and we are now sharing our own successes and lessons learned, thus ensuring best practice across the three schools, and into other schools now requiring support.

The Governing Body

Over the past few months, Mrs McCarthy has worked on strengthening the governance across the three schools in the Trust, recruiting new governors and ensuring we are all clear in our new roles of working in an advisory capacity, which is different from the previous role of ensuring accountability. The accountability aspect now rests with the Board of Directors, of which I am a member as Chair. Riverbridge now has three new governors, and I have listed the full members below:

- **Laura Ellis-Philip**, Trust Appointed Governor (Chair, member of the Lumen Board of Directors and Education Committee)
- **Christine Walls**, Parent Governor (Vice Chair, member of the Lumen Finance Committee)
- **Syreeta Tranfield**, Parent Governor. Like Christine and me, Syreeta has been a governor for a few years, keen to ensure the school continues along its path of improvement. Syreeta gives a lot of her time to the school as she is also a very active member of the PTA.
- **Gavin Davies**, Trust Appointed Governor – new governor, has a background in education as he works for the DfE. Gavin is a new parent living in Spelthorne, and volunteered to join us because he is keen to gain insight into the challenges schools face, and also wishes to give something back to his local community.
- **Amanda Carmichael**, Trust Appointed Governor – new governor, works in Echelford in the school office. Like Gavin, Amanda feels she has something to give to governance and is keen to contribute to her local community.
- **Louise Parsons**, Staff Governor – Louise has been on the governing body for a while now and gives us the staff perspective whilst maintaining objectivity
- **George Toms, Staff Governor** – new governor, George was voted in by his colleagues and will be in a good position to give us the KS1 perspective.
- **Paul Grimwood**, Headteacher, member of the Lumen Education Committee
- **Mary Ellen McCarthy**, Executive Principal, member of the Lumen Board of Directors and several Committees

Governor Visits

The main part of our role is to be the “eyes” of the Board of Directors. We each visit the school once per term, focusing on a particular area of interest. This gives us the opportunity to feel what I call the pulse of the school. We then write a report of our visit, which we share with the school's leaders and also with the governing body.



Last Friday we had a valuable meeting where we fed back on our recent visits into school, reflected on the good results shown in the data and examined those areas that require improvement. It is good to feel part of a school that is doing well, and we hope you will share this feeling of confidence with your friends and neighbours – the school's reputation is important to us and parental support in promoting this makes our children feel good about being a pupil in this school.

This term we have focused on Maths, Early Years, PE, Art, Computing and Science. The reports demonstrate to the governors that some fantastic initiatives are going on, and by visiting during the school day we are able to gain valuable insight at greater depth. For example, we have learned about the school's aspirations to become certified as an Artsmark school. This means that you are likely to see more initiatives linked to Art, such as talent contests, a curriculum week with an art focus, school trips to art galleries. You have already seen the Story Sack project, which I am sure you agree has been a wonderful example of a strong community at work.

Enrichment

Part of being a successful school with a good reputation is having a strong programme of enrichment, both within and in addition to the school curriculum. Over the past two years we have seen the after-school clubs be revamped and reformed, offering greater opportunities to more children, and in particular focusing on getting our disadvantaged children involved. This offering continues to flourish, and as part of the governor visit on PE we learnt about the many inter-school activities and competitions that have taken place. The governors are very pleased to see the school grow in this area. We believe it is a firm indication of a school that is doing well in its teaching and is therefore able to also take time to focus on further enriching the programme available to our pupils.

Summary

Overall, the governors left the meeting on Friday full of optimism and pride. As always, there are areas for improvement, but we can see that Mr Grimwood is fully settled into his role as Headteacher and he has told us that he feels supported by an enthusiastic and dedicated team across the school. The SATS results are indicative of the school's path of success, and we feel that the school is in a very good place indeed.

All the governors are voluntary, giving our time to the school because we value the importance of education for our local children, playing our part in the community. Please follow our lead and play your part by sharing the good news stories and promoting the reputation of your child's school – these little things make all the difference to the confidence of our pupils!

Best regards,



Laura Ellis-Philip
Chair of Governors