



# King's Oak Primary School

## Governors' newsletter - January 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year to you all. We hope you and your families enjoyed a happy and relaxing Christmas break and are now looking forward to an exciting new year at school. With 2019 behind us, the Governing Body wanted to share with you some of the work that has been completed at King's Oak over the last term and year.

### **Recruitment of new headteacher Ms Katie Bentham**

In the Spring, the governing body carried out a rigorous selection and interview process which resulted in the successful appointment of Ms Katie Bentham to the role of headteacher. We would like to thank you all for the kind welcome and support Ms Bentham has received in her first term at King's Oak.

### **New Chromebook Laptops**

Following a review of the IT equipment in the school, and despite budgetary constraints, Governors made the decision to allocate a significant amount of budget to overhaul the computers used by pupils across the school. As a result, during the summer, 30 new Chromebook laptops were purchased and a further 100 existing laptops were installed with Chromebook. Chromebooks are commonly used in Kingston secondary schools and their introduction at King's Oak will ensure that our children are well prepared for a future with technology.

This purchase is part of a new four-year rolling programme which will see a complete refresh of all classroom hardware and means that our pupils now have access to considerably faster computers which they can use to supplement their learning across a range of subjects. It also means that King's Oak now has a higher ratio of working laptops to pupils so more children can have individual access to laptops during lessons.



### **Prowise Interactive Whiteboards**

As part of our four-year rolling programme, we also authorised the purchase of 6 new Prowise interactive whiteboards which have been installed in our Early Years and Year 1 classrooms. These interactive boards offer a number of benefits over our existing, older smartboards including



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improved responsiveness, resolution and brightness. They also link with the new IT equipment purchased so that children's work can be displayed directly from a laptop.

## Curriculum development

During the year, governors also approved considerable funding for staff training and resources to implement and embed teaching and learning initiatives such as SoundsWrite phonics, Maths Mastery and Closer Reading. These programmes are being rolled out across the whole school with the objective of raising standards in all subjects.

## Forest School

You may not know, but we are now in our second year of Forest School with another successive cohort of Year 3 pupils visiting the excellent nearby Capitals for Forest School twice a term. Forest School enables our children to experience nature and learn a variety of outdoor skills including fire building. Children really gain from participating in forest school, as it enables them to build greater resilience, develop healthier minds and bodies, and be inspired by nature and the great outdoors.



## Breakfast and After School Clubs

In the Spring we transitioned the Breakfast and After School clubs from being run in-house to specialist external provider, SCL. This has brought a number of benefits to parents such as increased flexibility, online bookings, as well providing greater value for money for the school.

## New playground equipment

One of the key responsibilities of the governing body is to review and approve expenditure, and to ensure value for money. The school is currently in the process of obtaining quotes to install new playground equipment in the outdoor area near the MUGA and we hope this will soon be in place.

## About the Governing Body

Did you know that the governing body at King's Oak comprises 13 volunteers who come from a wide variety of backgrounds? Governors work collectively with the overarching aim of ensuring the best educational outcomes for all pupils at the school, and have three key responsibilities:

1. Setting the school's strategic direction and vision
2. Approving the budget
3. Holding senior leaders to account.



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The governing body works closely with the school's senior leadership team and provides constructive challenge and support to the school through regular monitoring and committee meetings. Members of our governing body come from a wide number of professional backgrounds and include accountants, HR professionals, project managers, teachers, doctors, cybersecurity consultants, geologists and civil servants. If you would like to find out more about the governors and how we work, please visit our [school website](#).

## **Governor Vacancies**

We currently have vacancies for two Parent governors and will soon be holding elections. Do you think you might want to join our team? If you might be interested in joining the governing body or at least exploring this further, please contact the Clerk to the Governors at [clerk@kop.rbksch.org](mailto:clerk@kop.rbksch.org); otherwise you can find out more information about becoming a governor on the [NGA website](#).

Please look out for information about elections on ParentMail in the next few weeks.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents/carers and children for their continued support of King's Oak and we wish you all the very best for the coming year.

Best wishes

The Governing Body

## UPDATE

The Parent Governor elections will now take place in the Summer Term