



Dear Parents and Carers,

As this extraordinary year draws to a close, I have spent some time reflecting on the challenges we have faced as a school community, as well as on our many achievements. In difficult and uncertain times, we may have felt that just keeping things ticking over was an achievement in itself. However, our parents, staff and governors had greater ambitions for the school because we share a passion for the wellbeing, education and happiness of our children.

On behalf of the governing body, I thank our passionate, talented and caring staff who work unbelievably hard on behalf of all our children, constantly seeking out creative opportunities to enhance their learning experience, both academically and pastorally. Thanks also to you, the parents and carers, for the tremendous support you have offered the school this year. In particular, this summer term has been full of exciting events for the children. So many of these are only possible because so many of you give generously of your time, expertise and support.

The Autumn term will see the opening of a new chapter in the life of the school. I am very excited about this next phase, in which we will continue to work in partnership to make our shared vision for the school a reality. This work towards the vision has already started and I will take this opportunity to share with you some of the changes that will take place over the summer months:

#### Staffing Changes

On Thursday we say goodbye to Mrs Henchie, Mrs Edmonds and Mrs Wright. I have written before about their remarkable service to the school and we are entirely indebted to them: Yvonne Wright for the care and kindness she has offered the children and her remarkable efficiency in the office; Steph Edmonds for the incredible job she did of keeping us moving forward and feeling positive in the difficult period of her Acting Headship as well as her valued service as Deputy; and Pat Henchie for her remarkable energy, enthusiasm and care and inspired leadership of the school. There has been a lot of shining! Steph Edmonds takes on a new and exciting leadership role in Croydon, where they are very fortunate to have her skills and experience, while Yvonne Wright and Pat Henchie are planning active and very enjoyable retirements, spending time with their precious children and grandchildren and pursuing their interests. We send them off with our very best wishes and invite them to come back and visit when they can. They will always be part of our school family. Presentations were made to the staff who are leaving at the outdoor assembly on the last day of term and at the picnic.

Miss Bentham and Miss Demeitriou take up their positions as Headteacher and Deputy at the start of the autumn term and the governors are excited about working with them as we make plans for the future. Miss Guirgan will also join us then as a year 4 teacher, in fact you may already have seen her around the school since she has spent time with us in recent weeks. We have also appointed Mrs Macanearney who joins the administration team.

### Building works

Over the summer, the plastic concertina doors in Years 1, 3, 4 and 5 will be replaced with partition walls and doors. The concertina doors have been in place for over twenty years; some are broken, none close properly. We hope this refurbishment will make these classrooms brighter, better sound proofed and a more attractive environment for the children to work in. Over the summer the kitchen will also be refurbished. It has been an aim for some time to refurbish the kitchen, but the cost was prohibitive. However, this term we secured funding from the local authority who have agreed to cover half the cost of renewing the kitchen.

### School Meals

The kitchen refurbishment combined with a new school meals provider who will cook food from fresh every day will enhance our school meals provision. We will be monitoring the quality of school meals and overall lunchtime experience throughout the year. It is our aim to provide an enjoyable and convivial lunchtime for all our children, who will be able to sit with their friends regardless of whether they have a school meal or packed lunch. The coffee and cake stall at Sports day, and the cake sale the previous week, together raised nearly £500, which will be spent on transforming the hall into a café for lunchtimes.

### IT Upgrade

Over the summer the IT infrastructure will be renewed. This involves a new server, 14 new classrooms PCs, a new wireless network and cabling. We are very grateful to the PSA for their financial support for this project and also for their agreement to fund new laptops and a trolley in the Autumn 2011. The infrastructure will be the basis for improved IT teaching and learning across the school.

### SATs

We have now received the results of the Year 6 SATs for both English and Maths. Having scrutinised a sample of papers we found significant marking errors in 50% of the writing papers and 25% of the reading papers. Following discussions with Mrs Henchie and the Year 6 teachers, we agreed to return all the English papers for remarking. The purpose of the SATS tests is to give a robust and reliable measurement of pupil progress as a reflection of the quality of teaching they receive. The way in which our papers had been marked was not, we felt, either reliable or robust. We are not alone in this and you may have seen the news coverage of widespread disquiet about SAT marking this year. The local authority has also made representations on SATs marking, on behalf of the borough schools. We have written to the year 6 parents in more detail.

### Year 6 Leavers

Many congratulations to all the Year 6 children and teachers on the stunning production of Oliver, the culmination of many weeks hard work. Thank you Year 6 for all the hard work, laughter and enthusiasm you have brought to Queen's. Our very best wishes and our prayers go with you as you make

your way in secondary school. Your schools are very lucky to have such special and talented children arriving. Please do come back and see us and let us know how you are getting on. We shall miss you and your families.

#### The Website

The school website is up and running but still a work in progress. Once the new term and the new team are settled in we will be working with Miss Bentham and her team on how best to keep the website up to date and to make information easy to find. Thanks to Liz Bithell who worked so hard to make this a reality.

#### Queen's 200

Thank you all for the huge support and help you have given to the celebration events for the celebration of Queen's 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This has been a very busy time. Celebration events included:

- A concert at The Barn Church, performed by the school orchestra joined by past pupils and parent helpers and the Kew Community Choir.
- A celebration service of Thanksgiving attended by the Bishop of Southwark at St Anne's Church.
- Art week where the children have created beautiful lasting works of art around the school to mark our bi-centenary. A project with The Avenue Club and children across the school to create a Queen's 200 quilt
- A visit by Princess Alexandra who unveiled the Queen's 200<sup>th</sup> plaque.
- An extended PSA summer fair with over a hundred past pupils and parents.
- History week where the children looked at the history of Kew and education through the ages.

I wish you and your families a very enjoyable and relaxing summer break.

With my very best wishes to you all,

*Bonney Venning*

Bonney Venning  
Chair of Governors