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# Governors' guardian

KEEPING YOU INFORMED FROM OUR GOVERNING BODY

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#SouthEndJr

*Ofsted say we are a "GOOD" school!*

## End of year Update!



Welcome to the last of the Governor Guardians of the academic year. It's been a busy year for both Governors, staff and pupils but also an exciting one. We saw a launch into media Governor Guardians giving all parents and carers the opportunity to see exactly what our Governors do within the school and their specific areas of designation. If you did miss this wonderful film it can be seen on our Youtube channel via our school website. It also gave you the opportunity to have a look into our school too. As Governors we are present at meetings involving progress and class room observations. A Governor has been present at all of the year group meetings this term taking the opportunity to learn more about school effectiveness and allowing the Governing Body to evaluate how initiatives and investments in the school are translated into improved outcomes for our pupils. Governors appreciate that they participate in these meetings as critical friends. This can only work with a high level of trust between staff and governors and the staff's

patience with our (sometimes naive) questions. In the meetings, Governors have fed back with the positive impression of the staff's sense of purpose in giving every child the best opportunity to progress in the school.

The other message we left with was the role that you as parents and carers can make in embedding learning at home. Please encourage your child to do their home learning, listen to them read and praise them when they do well. Reading with your children can help develop their listening and language skills and give them a whole new level of progress and sense of achievement in their future. We have seen the new accelerated reader within reading bring in an excitement around the school and boys and girls engaging with this new initiative with positive results.

As we come to a close and pupils move onto new year groups and our year 6 onto new schools, I encourage you all to keep up the good work and enjoy your

continued learning experiences. Have a wonderful summer break and we look forward to welcoming our new year 3 into the school in September and our existing pupils going up into their new year groups.

Nicki Daniel  
Community and SEN Governor





## Progress & Attainment—Noel Springett-McHugh

Governors are busy throughout the year monitoring and challenging the school on progress and attainment of every pupil. (attainment being what the children achieve and progress the journey they make to get there) They do this in a variety of ways:

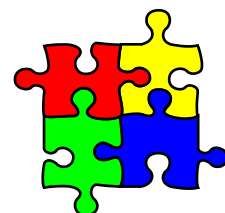
- By attending Pupil Progress Meetings where teachers share the progress and attainment of every child in their class. These meetings enable senior staff to challenge and support the teacher and discuss ways forward to support individuals and deal with any barriers to learning. The governor role within this is to observe and feedback to the full governing body how effective these have been.
- Access full reports and presentations from Senior Staff at the Full Governors Meeting. This is the opportunity where all the information on progress and attainment is shared with governors. Governors then have the opportunity to challenge the school on the findings and support the school with ideas and new initiatives to help deal with any concerns.
- Attending Lesson Observations and taking learning walks through the school. This is a great opportunity for governors to see exactly what goes on in lessons and see how children learn in our school. They also use these opportunities to see that we are doing what we say in our presentations at the Governor meetings!

Overall our attainment at South End is strong and we are in line or above national in all areas. This continues to be the case with the new, much more difficult and intense curriculum. We were delighted with last year's Year 6 outcomes and this present year which has seen a further increase in all areas and above national in all areas.

Regarding progress this is more of a fluid picture in our school. We find that in year groups where children have great support from home such as home learning, regular daily reading, spelling and times-tables help, children's progress is positive. However, where this is not the case there is definitely a clear hindrance in the progress a child makes. This is something you can really help with! Please try really hard to always listen to your child read every day. If time is tight you can read in the car or let them read out loud as you are doing dinner! For home learning when you are tight for time to do it, please encourage your child to attend the home learning clubs which are available every week for all year groups.

All of us working together can only help our children reach their potential. Lets all do our bit and we will continue to see great things!

Noel Springett-McHugh



## Message from the Chair—Ellen Lee



I became Chair of Governors in September 2016. Since then I have visited school many times and during these visits I have witnessed the excellent relationships that exist amongst all within the school.

It is these relationships that mean children feel comfortable talking to staff and this has been especially important following the terrible terrorist attacks that have occurred recently. Following these attacks, the staff at South End Junior School have spoken about what has been happening. The minute silences have been observed. Children have asked questions that have been answered sensitively. This has reassured the children.

Ellen Lee

## Health & Safety—Dave Huck



Governors ensure our children are kept safe - school site, internet, recruitment etc.

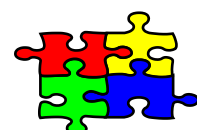
Governors receive a Health and Safety Report each term which reports on all the areas covered by the school's Health and Safety Policy. On an ongoing basis risk assessments are carried out and/or reviewed with new control measures put in place or existing control measures simply followed to ensure the health and safety of everyone attending, working in or visiting our school.

The school has considered what is needed to ensure the site is safe in terms of preventing intruders gaining access outside school hours, children being able to leave site unauthorised during the school day or visitors to the school being able to access pupils without staff's knowledge. This is obviously in addition to ensuring the site is as safe as possible in all the usual areas such as fabric of building, legionella prevention, electrical and mechanical items, trees, boilers, fire prevention and emergency evacuation.

The school has internet content filtering in place and can also monitor the web activity that has taken place as well as being alerted to any suspicious searches that have occurred on its computers.

The school complies with the recruitment guidelines in the statutory guidance Keeping Children Safe in Education.

Dave Huck



## Staffing—Julie Rogers-Hussey



We are delighted to announce that we are now fully staffed for September, ensuring that all pupils are able to get off to a positive start. This may sound a slightly strange comment to make but anyone who follows the media will understand how hard it is to recruit and retain quality teachers, with more teachers currently leaving the profession than joining. Many schools are still struggling to fill vacancies for September but we are very happy and confident with the teams we have in place. As I'm sure you as parents will appreciate, the staff at South End Junior School do a sterling job in inspiring, supporting, encouraging and of course educating your children. We are lucky to have them!

Julie Rogers-Hussey

## Celebrations—Aker Arungah

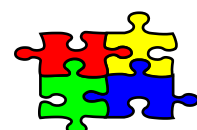


We have had an amazing year of outstanding achievement here at South End that goes well beyond the ordinary, from our fantastic swimmers to our talented ball room dancers! As is our tradition we celebrate all kinds of achievement inside and outside school twice a month at our VIP Awards Ceremony. I am sure many of you have had the privilege of witnessing the abundance of energy, happiness and pride the school rewards all the children with. It is also now easier than ever to keep up to date with our weekly achievements by following us on Twitter or Facebook.

This year South Enders have taken part in swimming galas, football and cricket matches, athletic meetings, concerts and dancing competitions, where we have always done our best, and many of which we have won! We are so proud of the children who have taken part in these activities and would like to thank the teachers who have put in so much hard work organising practice/training and getting the children to the various events throughout the year.

Two weeks ago, the school enjoyed Carnival week, where the children learnt all about the Caribbean, made masks and took part in their own Carnival, it looked very fun, colourful, and loud! As we come to the end of the year the celebrations continue, and we look forward to showcasing our musical talents at the summer concert and celebrate our Year 6 graduates at the end of year show and leavers' assembly which are sure to be emotional but memorable. What a great way to finish a wonderful year at South End Junior School.

Aker Arungah



## POD's—Carl Brotherston



As a Governor at South End I meet regularly with the Schools SLT, but myself and other governors also meet with small groups of class room teachers which we call POD meetings. POD meetings happen once a term and look at how subjects are lead and developed across the school.

On the Innovation and Enterprise POD we look at how mathematics, computing and technology is working across the school and we challenge ourselves as much as we do the school to make sure as a team we are delivering the best possible experience for all pupils.

In our meetings, we look at the curriculum and how best to support staff and students in its delivery, whether we look at training for staff or resources for pupils. We also continually monitor strategies that we have introduced to make sure they are working for the pupils and improving their education experiences.

Finally, once a year each POD leader and governor will deliver a presentation at a meeting of the full governing body where we are both challenged by the schools Senior Leadership Team and other governors to make sure we are working effectively as a POD team to improve education and progress of the school's pupils.

Carl Brotherston

## Governor Visits—Ranjit Singh



I enjoy being a Parent Governor at SEJ. One of my greatest enjoyments comes through watching the children enjoying the educational journey through SEJ.

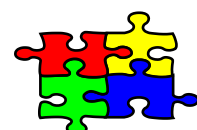
As a school Governor I have attended, some wonderful school performances, showing the hard work & creativity that the staff & children put together. Over the years I have never walked out of a single performance without a smile on my face, and a true feeling of gratitude, to all involved. I always look forward to these & try to visit as many times as I am able.

I also attend school observation sessions. This is a wonderful experience, that allows the Governor and Leadership teams to observe an actual class environment. We interact with the children and feedback, upon teaching standards and understanding achieved in that lesson – also reminds me that those chairs are smaller than I remember them! Observations, with Governors are part of the continuous improvement in standards that we immensely enjoy.

I also attend school to attend progress meetings. Progress meetings are held regularly to monitor educational progress of all children. This meeting always amazes me, how every member of the teaching staff and leadership team are aware of the names and unique characteristics of all children. The teaching staff work very hard to ensure that all children are achieving. The wonderful look on the faces of the teachers when the children, achieve or excel is amazing and can be seen. The progress meetings allow governors to question teachers regarding all aspects of standards. Governors are also able to listen to the frustrations of the teaching staff. The progress meeting highlights barriers to education, in clear evidence based results, as well as the positive actions.

As a school Governor at SEJ, I enjoy contributing, together with teachers & other stakeholders, to the educational journey for all the pupils in the school. As a parent governor, I am able to provide a parents view upon decisions that are being planned or are actioned, regarding the school. I enjoy seeing the wonderful creativity & general standards that are upheld in the school, by the pupils and the staff. The governing body strives, together with the teachers & the stakeholders within the school, to provide exceptional education experiences to all the children, and reminds us that the responsibility of educating the children belongs to everybody.

Ranjit Singh



## School Funding—Jo Simmons



The school receives the majority of its funding from the Local Authority via a funding formula which is linked to how many children attend the school and other factors. In addition to this the school receives Pupil Premium Grant, Sports Grant and Devolved Formula Capital Grant. The school website gives more detail of how the school spends the Pupil Premium and Sports Grants and, importantly, the impact of this spending. The Devolved Formula Capital Grant is currently being saved by the school to contribute to future capital projects. It is worth noting that once money has been set aside for capital spending, the school cannot then spend this money on revenue items. Funding is also given to the school to help meet the needs of pupils with a statement of educational needs (pre September 2014) or an Education Health and Care Plan and the school can, and does, apply for extra funding to help ensure any underlying special education needs of pupils are being addressed.

The Department for Education (DfE) have stated that “the current system for distributing that funding is outdated, inefficient and unfair. Under the current system, a school in one part of the country could receive over 50% more than an identical school with exactly the same children, simply because of an accident of history.” The government is therefore currently looking at implementing a new national funding formula. Although Northamptonshire County Council is currently one of the lower funded counties, we cannot assume that any change will mean that as a school we will be receiving more money. The factors that are used to disseminate the funds and the weighting given to these have not yet been agreed upon.

The Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) have said the spending per pupil is likely to fall by about 6.5-8% in real terms between 2015 & 2020. The school has already noticed rising costs – such as increased employer NI contributions, introduction of the living wage and apprentice levy. One of the school’s staff members has been trained and has a focus on raising extra funds for the school in the future to help us continue to afford all of the wonderful things that we currently do here.

Jo Simmons

From All Governors—Have a wonderful Summer

See you in September!

