



December 2023

News from Your Trustees



HELEN AND THE NEW LEADERSHIP TEAM

After an enjoyable and successful term's work with Helen in her role as acting Head Teacher, the trustees are delighted to have made a decision to offer Helen the permanent role as Head Teacher, subject to continued performance management. The transition has been as seamless as we could have hoped, and we know that morale amongst parents, staff and children is high. Along with the rest of the senior leadership team we believe the school is in a strong position to continue delivering an excellent education.

GOVERNOR = TRUSTEE

You may have noticed that the term governor has been replaced with 'trustee' in our newsletters and on the websites. This is because Eden has academy status and although the roles are effectively the same, academies have trustees not governors.

THE SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Much of the work of the Board of Trustees centres around the School Development Plan, a summary of which was sent to parents with the Head Teacher's weekly newsletter, and is [available on our website](#). This plan sets out the school's priorities for the academic year, and the ways in which it will continue to pursue its vision and values. It draws on the insights of the school's Senior Leadership, and on parent, pupil and trustee feedback.

Trustees use the plan to hold the Senior Leadership to account throughout the year, monitoring progress towards these aims. Trustee visits are planned around the objectives in the plan, to enable discussions with staff, pupils and observations to feed into the trustees' understanding of progress. More on these visits below.

TRUSTEE MEETINGS THIS TERM

Steve, our Chair has weekly meetings with Helen, the Finance and Achievement committees have both met, and the Full Board have had two meetings this term.

TRUSTEE MEETINGS - BEHIND THE SCENES

What goes on in a Full Board meeting?

- *Head Teacher's Report* - trustees receive a full report from the head teacher, these reports must contain information on pupil numbers, staffing, safeguarding issues (anonymised), any complaints, and are also a chance for the Head to share progress and successes towards aims on the School Development Plan, as well as any potential barriers to progress.
- *Policies to be ratified* - The trustees have a cycle of school policies and other documents for ratification and review.
- *Reports from committees* - Close scrutiny of the school's work is delegated to two sub-committees. The Finance Committee's work includes budget monitoring, staffing, and health & safety. The Achievement Committee's work includes curriculum, teaching and learning. Both report to the Full Board of Trustees, and this will include reports from any recent trustee visits and or communication with staff.
- *Minutes from Full Board of Trustee Meetings are available on the school website.*

TRUSTEE VISITS DURING AUTUMN TERM

HEBREW - 2 trustee visits are planned for this year, focused on the school's plan for the development of Hebrew teaching. The first of these took place in September. Trustee Brian Lerner was delighted to see engaged pupils in the younger years in a Hebrew lesson, and also to discuss with teachers their ambitious plans for the year. A follow up trustee visit is planned for the Summer term, to track progress towards these aims.

PHSE AND BEHAVIOUR Trustee Amelia Lasserson's visit in October focused on the implementation of the school's new streamlined Personal, Social Health and Economic curriculum, as well as the school's teaching of

values, rules and expected behaviour. Amelia met with Kate who is the current PHSE lead.

SAFEGUARDING. Trustee Simone Newton met with Helen in November to discuss safeguarding policies, procedures and training for the school and staff members.

SEND (Special Needs & Disability) Finally, trustee Celia Newman has met with Kate this week for the first of three SEND governor visits planned for the year. Progress of children with SEND is a particular area of focus in the school development plan and visits will focus on ensuring interventions are effective.

NB All trustee visits have a particular focus, but all trustees take the opportunity to talk to children, to ask safeguarding related questions, observe Jewish life, and to really get to know the school 'in action'.

PARENT TRUSTEE ELECTION

If you like the sound of what goes on 'behind the scenes' you may be interested to know that in January there will be an opportunity to stand to become a parent trustee. Any parent who has some time to devote to the role, and a drive to support our very special school, is encouraged to apply. Please email chair@edenprimary.org.uk if you are interested, and for more information.

PIKUACH INSPECTION

You will know that Eden's Jewish Education was inspected by Pikuach in the final week of term. Pikuach inspect all Jewish schools and Eden's last inspection was in 2018. The inspectors said lots of good things but we are unable to publish the results before 30 working days have passed, so we will share the outcome with parents next term.

ANNUAL AUDIT

At their final meeting of this term the Trustees approved the Annual Report and Accounts which will be available on the website as soon as possible. After a very difficult couple of years we have been able to balance our budget but only after making significant cuts. What this means is that all new fundraising – including QCs and the lunch money appeal – will be able to go towards enhancing our innovative and unique school, and the opportunities for our children.

And finally....



CAN WE HAVE YOUR LUNCH MONEY?

Eden has trustees and staff who are ambitious for your children, but our ambition is not enough. You will have seen in the press that schools are currently chronically underfunded, and Eden is no different. We need your help to support your children. In common with all other schools, we have been forced to cut the number of Teaching Assistants and support staff, putting pressure on staff, and impacting children directly.

If your child is in Key Stage 2 you will no longer be paying for your school lunch.

Each KS2 Eden parent has saved £644 over the whole academic year

We are aware that for some families this is a crucial saving during the cost of living crisis, enabling them to feed their families and heat their homes. However we know that other families will be in a position to use this saving to help us help their children.

IF EACH KEY STAGE 2 PARENT DONATED THEIR LUNCH MONEY FOR THIS YEAR THAT WOULD TOTAL £77,280. THIS ONE-OFF OPPORTUNITY IS IN ADDITION TO YOUR QUALITY CONTRIBUTIONS WHICH ARE CENTRAL TO OUR BUDGET PLANNING.

THIS WOULD FUND TWO EXTRA TEACHING ASSISTANTS FOR A YEAR.

PLEASE CONSIDER 'GIVING US YOUR LUNCH MONEY' SO WE CAN BETTER ACHIEVE OUR AMBITIONS FOR YOUR CHILDREN.

Eden Board of Trustees
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