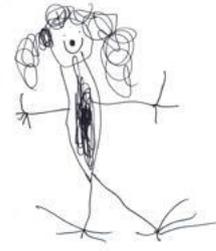




Rachel Keeling Nursery School



Annual Report to Parents from Governors

(September 2015 to July 2016)

Dear Parents,

What a wonderful year at Rachel Keeling this has been. The children have been involved in such a rich variety of learning throughout the year that it is difficult to summarise though always a delight for governors to see first hand during visits and through newsletters, the website, and reports at governor meetings.



From making ice cream, harvesting and cooking apples on an open fire in the garden in the Autumn Term, starting shopping trips in which the children write lists and take the money from the office to buy those items for the nursery in the Spring Term, and then this term's wonderful tessellation work leading to a trip to St Paul's and fantastic mosaics, as well as all the independent woodwork and the long term in-depth learning of the bag project and all the artwork for the

Summer exhibition, the children have had an exciting and busy year. The staff have continued to embed the cycling, helping children to learn to ride two wheel bikes, and of course you have all helped us to celebrate Eid-ul-Adha, Divali, Christmas, Black History Month, Chinese New Year, World Book Day, International Evening, Easter and Eid-ul-Fitr. The children have been involved in many visits both to the school - from the police horses, the caterpillars and Chinese dancers to name just a few - and out of school on local visits to Forest School, shopping, an Indian restaurant, and to places further away like the O2 cable cars. You can always learn more about what your children have been doing by looking at our monthly newsletters and our weekly blogs on the website which also includes a frequently updated learning gallery and many of the children's videos. If you aren't a regular visitor to the website please do go to <http://www.rachelkeeling.towerhamlets.sch.uk/>



All children have made excellent progress, with nearly all leavers at expected developmental levels in all areas of the curriculum and many exceeding national expectations for children their age. Staff and Governors are focussed on maintaining and building upon these standards in the face of challenging times and as part of the local TELSTA Teaching School Alliance have joined The Tower Hamlets Partnership which is working to offer schools the support and development previously provided by the Tower Hamlets council. We are also committing some of the school's healthy carry forward from last year's budget to improving school grounds and facilities to minimise the impact on children's learning in the event of possible future budget cuts. As well as repairs and improvements to the wedge, staff toilets, the accessible toilet and the floors, we plan to build a working clay oven in the garden with children and families this coming autumn term.

The Senior Management team has gone from strength to strength. This has been Becky Dolamore's first full school year as Head Teacher, and I'm sure you'll all agree that she has continued to drive up standards for our children, and to increase staff well-being. We welcomed Maria Ioannou as our new Deputy Head Teacher in the Spring Term and she has already had an impact on the children's learning, particularly with the wonderful bag making project you will have seen at the Art Exhibition. We have also been lucky to keep Lize Visagie, who was such an excellent acting deputy, as part of the senior management team alongside Linda Yon, Becky and Maria. They are a fantastic team leading with children as their focus. Together with the whole staff team they have made sure we put children first as our motto makes clear: 'Rachel Keeling Nursery, where the child comes first.' Working as a whole staff team is essential to giving the best start to our children and all staff, administrative, premises and teaching, were invited on Spring Term inset day on Attachment, Empathy and Resilience, making sure all staff are given the opportunity to develop the tools to best support our children. Other staff training has included Helicopter Story Telling, Safeguarding and Prevent Strategy, Letters and Sounds and First Aid courses.



Since the Outstanding Ofsted inspection of November 2013, the school has worked hard to fulfil their one recommendation to '*Share more widely the school's highly developed skills of meeting the needs of all children and making teaching inspirational so as to contribute further to local and national school improvement.*' Not only have we have visits from educational settings as far away as Norway and Canada and as near as other schools in Tower Hamlets, our staff have delivered talks on documenting children's learning through film with newly qualified teachers and offered support to more than twenty other settings in and beyond Tower Hamlets. It is also wonderful to see how many parent and carer

workshops have been offered over this year, from music to literacy and maths, sharing the school's skills with its own families.

We have welcomed three new governors this year: Peter Briffa (Gene's dad and Parent Governor), Simon Tan (Co-opted Governor) and Lize Visagie who replaces Syeda Begum as the new staff governor. The Governing Body continues to be very involved in the school on a day to day basis and it has been fantastic to have Sonia Rodriguez-Maseda (Vice Chair of Governors) working in the office albeit for a sad reason as Jacqui Goh has been off sick with a broken arm. The Governing Body as a whole is very committed to ensuring children get the absolute best start to their education here at Rachel Keeling. Governors regularly visit the school to see the progress being made against the school development plan. This academic year there have been eleven monitoring visits by governors. You can find out more about all of us on the Rachel Keeling website or on the board displayed on the left as you walk through the second set of entrance doors. If you have any questions about this report or about what governors do in our school, please don't hesitate to ask me or any of the other governors and staff. More information about the school is available on our website where you can look at more of the children's learning, our self evaluation form and policies in more detail. For the current key priorities of the School Development Plan, please see below.

If your children are about to leave Rachel Keeling, we wish you and your children all the best for the future and urge you to keep in touch.

Thank you to all our parents, carers, Governors and staff for your support in ensuring our children are able to make substantive progress in their respective learning journeys.

I hope you enjoy the Summer Trip to Southend-on-Sea.

Warm regards,

Rebekah Lattin-Rawstrone (Chair of Governors)

July 2016



Key Priorities for April 2016- March 2017

<p>Ofsted Framework</p>	<p>2016-2017 PSE and Creativity is threading through the entire curriculum</p>
<p>Pupil achievements</p>	<p>*Whole School Target* Literacy-Early reading and writing: Children will develop an increasing awareness of print carrying meaning, mark making within a variety of meaningful contexts. <u>Governors responsible: Rebekah and Peter</u> Personal, Social and Emotional Development: Children will increasingly take ownership of their learning as co-constructors: collaborating, resourcing and organising themselves. <u>Governor responsible: Lize</u></p>
<p>Teaching, Learning and Assessment</p>	<p>Mathematics: 2D and 3D shapes To review how we develop children's knowledge around shape and space in meaningful and creative ways, with particular focus on 2D and 3D shape. Peer support, trips, sharing good practice. <u>Governors responsible: Simon and Delwar</u> Deep learning: Staff are able to tune into more able learners, plan challenging, deep experiences and use learning journeys to demonstrate children's progress, including film. <u>Governors responsible: Lize & Rebekah</u> Sensory Provision: To review and enhance sensory provision for all our children. <u>Governor responsible: Aminul</u></p>
<p>Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare</p>	<p>Supervision: To provide staff with a termly well-being and work check with a supervisor to ensure they are best placed to carry out their role. <u>Governor responsible: Clare</u> Developing cycling: Children will be able to further develop their skills in riding two wheeler balance and pedal bikes. <u>Governor responsible: Clare</u> Attendance and Punctuality: Children are attending school every day, accessing a broad curriculum and enriching experiences. <u>Governor responsible: Sonia</u></p>
<p>Leadership and Management</p>	<p>Research & documentation: To continue to publish documentation demonstrating children's learning. To engage in school-led research to share our outstanding practice across all areas of learning and impact the wider community. <u>Governor responsible: Rebekah</u> Tower Hamlets School Partnership: continuing Rachel Keeling's drive for school improvement, developing peer review and continued outreach work supporting our colleague and community. <u>Governor responsible: Simon</u> Early Years Pupil Premium: To ensure our Early Years Pupil Premium resources continue to be effective in closing the gap in attainment for all our children. <u>Governor responsible: Sonia</u></p>