

Brookland Junior School and Brookland Infant and Nursery School Governing Body



Autumn Newsletter December 2016

About the Governors

As the autumn term comes to a close, the Governors would like to take this opportunity to share a few things with our community and wish you all a very pleasant holiday break.

The governors would like to extend a warm welcome to all parents and carers, especially those from the nursery and reception classes and all others who are new to the Brookland community. The Governing Body works very closely with the head teachers and staff developing policies to ensure that the children are safe and that their individual needs are met so they can be the best they can be. Our role is threefold: to provide strategic direction, to be a critical friend, and to ensure accountability.

The Governing Body's vision is "Creating opportunities, supporting aspiration, striving for excellence". It is our aim to create an environment where children are happy, safe, accepted and challenged. At Brookland Schools we celebrate our differences, and everyone is special and unique. The Governing Body is immensely proud of both schools for their outstanding academic achievements and the nurturing environment that they provide for the children.

If you have anything you want to discuss or share with the governors please contact our Chair using the email address at the bottom of this newsletter. Please talk to governors during school events, or to our parent governors on the playground. You can find further information about the governors on the schools' websites. However, any specific queries or concerns about your child should be directed first to your class teacher, and then the Deputy or Head.

Staffing and Governance

At our first Full Governing Body meeting of the year Mark Leibling was re-elected as Chair and Laura Pincus was elected as Vice-Chair. We thank our outgoing Vice-Chair, Katie Attwood, as well as Dennis Lam for serving as Junior Support staff governor. We are pleased to welcome Farnoush Bikdeli as the new Junior Support staff governor and Russell Caller as an Associate Governor. Several new members of staff have joined and are settling in well. We welcome them all to our Brookland family.

Staff and governors alike have been working hard on their professional development, attending courses and joint sessions with other schools on subjects as varied as Curriculum, Fire Warden training, Safeguarding and Child Protection, Prevent Duty, Assessment and Marking. INSET days are vital to staff and governors for planning short and long term goals and for staff training. The governors have been busy visiting their subject links in both schools and have enjoyed watching the children in action!

Safeguarding

Thank you to all the parents who attended our Online Safety evening. The Governors take safeguarding the children very seriously, helping to keep them safe online at home as well as at school. For more information, two useful websites are CEOP <https://ceop.police.uk>, and Thinkuknow <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk>.

One of the responsibilities of the governing body is to ensure that all of our school trips are safe for the children, staff and parent and carer volunteers. Each trip is carefully planned, and detailed risk assessments are completed before every trip, as well as taking into account any special needs. The governors monitor and review the Educational Visits Policy and make sure that rigorous systems are in place to keep everyone safe.

Curriculum

This term, the governors have reviewed the data analysis from both schools regarding last year's results and the target setting for future years. Congratulations to the children on their wonderful achievements and thank you to all staff for their effort and support. We are thrilled with the progress that each child has made. Each year, the governors are overwhelmed with the amount of information and analysis undertaken for each student so as to understand their individual progress and potential. The Governors would like to congratulate all members of staff and the children for their outstanding achievements in last year's end of Foundation Stage results, Key Stage Teacher Assessments (Y2 and Y6) and Y6 SATs. There are more details about each schools' curriculum on the websites. Both schools have also had an Attainment Review with a Barnet School Improvement Partner. Data has been reviewed and both schools' outcomes were judged as Outstanding.

School improvements

The Infants are thrilled with their new Infant toilets in the main building and the Juniors have some lovely new benches made from recycled plastic. The doors to the "Huts" of both schools have all been replaced as well.

If you have not yet made your swimming contribution for the year yet please can you do so. The offices can check for you if you are unsure if you have paid for this year. The Premises Committee is actively exploring options for the redevelopment of the swimming pool and speaking to both Barnet Council and private tuition providers about how it could be funded. Similarly, we are looking to upgrade several facilities within the Schools and discussing future plans with representatives of Barnet. Funding is very limited but we are looking to prioritise a number of projects over the next financial year with help from the Council. If you have grant writing skills please can you speak to the relevant head teacher.

School events

Thank you to everyone who helped the children put on wonderful assemblies and concerts for the holidays and throughout the term. We are very proud of their many talents!

The Bonfire night organised by the Infant School PA was enjoyed by all. Many thanks to the PA and all staff, parents and carers who helped out on the night. We raised £3900 profit! The money will go towards new classroom tables, chairs and equipment.

The Winter fair hosted by the Junior School was very successful, raising approximately £7800. The money will go towards new wooden play equipment in the lower playground.

Catering

Both Brookland Schools place great importance on healthy eating. This is reinforced by the curriculum but also by our catering staff. School lunches, supplied by our new catering company Absolutely Catering, are subjected to very strict governmental guidelines, including how much salt, sugar and fat each portion and meal as a whole should contain. Food supplies are sourced locally where possible. Desserts are served, but portion sizes are small and natural sugars (from fruit and vegetables) are used wherever possible.

Parking and Driving

Maintaining a good relationship with our neighbours and ensuring everyone's safety are high priorities for both schools. Please park considerately and adhere to the voluntary one-way system. More information on our Travel Plan and how to safely travel to school can be found on the websites.

Barnet Consultation on School Admissions

Barnet council is consulting on changes to the admission arrangements for Barnet community schools. The following changes are being proposed:

- To give priority for places to children of teaching staff of the school where the member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made and will be in employment as a teacher at the school when the child starts school.
- To amend the In-Year admission oversubscription criterion which gives priority to former pupils at the school, restricting this priority to former pupils without a school place that live in the geographical area and have attended the school in the previous 12 months.

The consultation will run until 31 January 2017. To read more information and to participate please go to <https://engage.barnet.gov.uk/>.

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www.brooklandjuniorschool.co.uk

www.brooklandinfant.co.uk

