



Creating opportunities, supporting aspiration, striving for excellence

Summer Newsletter

July 2016

As we approach the summer break the governors would like to take this opportunity to share a few things with all parents and carers and wish you all a very pleasant and restful break. We would also like to thank all Brookland families for their support over the last year.

Awards/Special Recognition

This year has seen many successes for both the Infant and the Junior schools. We are proud of the children for their excellent results in many extra-curricular competitions and tournaments, including chess, dance, drama, maths, music, science and many different sports. We would also like to wish all the Year 6 children good luck at their secondary schools.

Communication

The governors would like to thank all parents and carers for their feedback over the last year. We are all partners in your children's education and constructive dialogue between families, staff and senior managers is vital. Please may the governors remind parents and carers that if they have any concerns or queries about any aspect of school life to communicate them promptly to the class teacher. If the concern is more serious it should be communicated to a member of the Senior Leadership Team. School policies regarding this can be found on the websites.

Online Safety and School Websites

Online safety was a focus for Barnet this year. The governors would like to remind parents and carers that more information is available than ever before on both school's websites, including guidance about how to keep children safe online. This is especially important in the summer when children may have more screen time than usual. Please respect the school policy of not posting photos or videos taken in school on social networking sites.

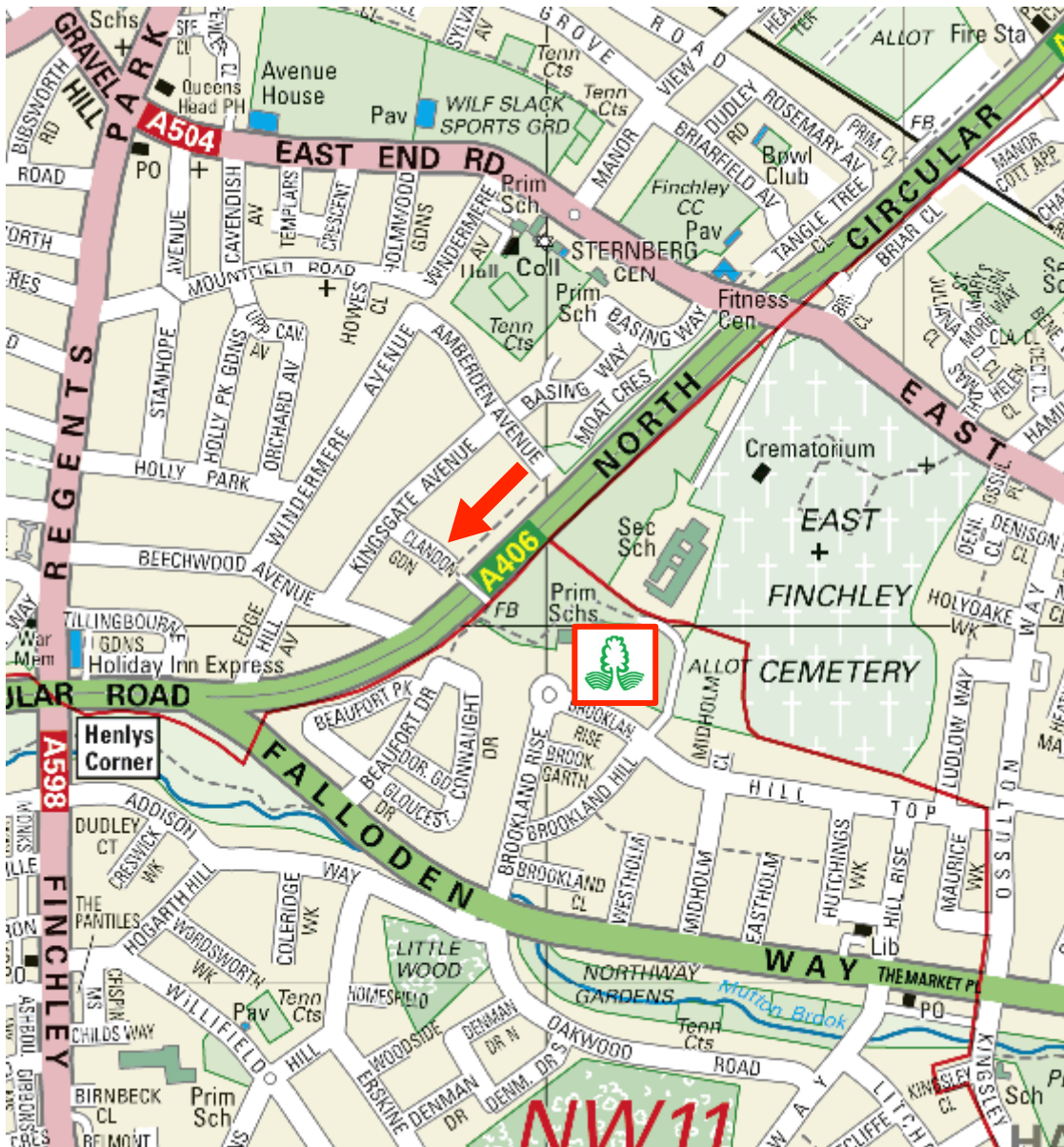
Catering

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

Thank you to the vast majority of our parents and carers who are considerate when coming to school. Please try walking or "parking and striding" instead. A camera has been installed by Barnet outside school to deter parking around our school gates during drop off and pick up times. Have you considered an alternative "Stop and Drop" point on Clandon Gardens (N3) over the footbridge by the field gate? Please see map below for details:

Map showing parking option on Clandon Gardens, N3



Residential Trips

The governors would like to thank all staff that recently led the successful residential trips to Moat Mount in the Infants and Whitby in the Juniors. We are sure that some wonderful memories were made. The staff who accompany the children give up their personal time to ensure that the children can have these enriching experiences. A thank you also goes to staff that stay behind to look after the rest of the school. This year was the final Whitby trip. Next year, following extensive careful research and consultation, the Juniors are excited to be going to Osmington Bay in Dorset for their year 6 school journey.

School Development Plans/Self-Evaluation Forms

Both schools have produced these key documents, which have been reviewed and validated by the governors. These documents take an incredible amount of work from all the staff and are vital to the schools' review of their targets, achievements and future plans, and are essential documents in preparation for any future Ofsted review. We thank all the staff for all their input.

Curriculum Changes

This year has seen the full implementation of the new National Curriculum. The new curriculum is more difficult than the old, but the staff and children have risen to the challenge and are enjoying the new topics. The Infant SATs (KS1) have not been published yet; we do know though that the children have worked very hard and we are very proud of them. The Junior SATs results are as below. You can see that nationally Brookland Junior School has done very well, so congratulations to all.

% of pupils meeting new 2016 expected standards.	Brookland SATs	National SATs	Brookland Statutory Teacher assessment
Reading	81%	66%	91%
Grammar Punctuation and Spelling	90%	72%	NA
Writing (Teacher assessed only)	NA	74%	80%
Maths	84%	70%	90%
Reading, writing, maths combined	69%	53%	

We thank all who have made these results possible, and thank staff in both schools for giving us two fantastic open events to showcase our schools.

Site Improvements

In the Infants, the toilets in the main building will be replaced and two new interactive whiteboards will be installed in the Nursery and the Turtle class over the summer. The Juniors now have lovely new dining room furniture, and the hut doors will be replaced over the summer. Thank you to the fantastic efforts of the PAs of both schools who helped raise funds for these projects.

Parents Association

Both schools are incredibly lucky to have such vibrant and active Parents' Associations. In the Infants we all enjoyed a wonderful Summer Fair and in the Juniors the children had a "Summertime Ball". The staff and governors would like to thank them for all their hard work planning these, and many other events, raising much-needed funds.

Staffing Changes

The governors would like to thank all those who are leaving us at the end of this term. We would like to thank Katie Attwood for her service as Vice Chair of Governors as well as the Finance Committee chair, and Sheryl Bekhor. We welcome back re-elected Staff Governor Phil Mulvihill and Parent Governor Laura Pincus. We welcome new Parent Governors Harriet Bloom and Katie Fearn as well as a new Local Authority Governor Sapna Shah. In the Infants we say goodbye to Dianne McNevin, Johanna Sol and Maisie Murphy, and have welcomed 1 new Brookland baby. In the Juniors we have welcomed four Brooklands babies!