



Brookland Junior School and Brookland Infant and Nursery School Governing Body



Creating opportunities, supporting aspiration, striving for excellence

As the autumn term has come to a close and we begin the spring term, the Governors would like to take this opportunity to share a few things with our community. 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. 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. 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.

Governor News

At our first full Governing Body meeting of the year Mark Leibling was re-elected as Chair and Laura Pincus was re-elected as Vice-Chair.

We are pleased to welcome Jenny Catley as the new Infant Support staff governor and Claire Rosen as a new Junior Parent Governor. We also thank outgoing Governors Phil Mulvihill and Sara Wolfen for their years of service.

The Governors have been working hard on their professional development, attending courses and joint sessions with other schools.

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!

Curriculum Committee

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 school's 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.

Premises and Health and Safety Committee

After many months of working closely with Barnet Council we are extremely pleased that our eco-friendly and wonderfully designed new Nursery building is now fully functional and serving the children very well. Our Nursery parents have been full of praise for the new building. The Premises and Health and Safety Committee are in continual discussions with a senior Director at Barnet Council regarding a replacement programme for some of the older stand-alone buildings. The council has limited funds and but we would very much like to see buildings of a similar nature used around the site going forward, but please be aware that progress is likely to be slower than we would like. In the meantime, our caretakers James and Rupert continue to do an excellent job looking after the site and ensuring a safe and pleasant environment for our children.

Communication and Community Engagement Committee

Both schools are incredibly lucky to have such vibrant and active Parent's Associations. In the Infants we all enjoyed a wonderful Bonfire Night; in the Juniors the children had a fantastic Winter Fair. The staff and governors would like to thank them for all their hard work planning these events, raising much-needed funds.

The committee has been working towards getting ready for the General Data Protection Regulation, which comes into effect in May 2018. A new policy will be adopted in accordance with forthcoming legislation. Maintaining a good relationship with our neighbours and ensuring everyone's safety are high priorities. Please park considerately, adhere to the voluntary one-way system, and try to walk more or "park and stride". A camera outside school has been installed by Barnet to deter stopping/parking around our school gates and on the zigzag lines. Thank you to the vast majority of our parents and carers who are considerate when coming to school.

Strategy Committee

One of the primary functions of the Governing Body is to set and monitor the strategic direction for each school. Last year, we created a Strategy Committee to oversee this function. The committee is chaired by Mark Leibling, and is made up of all chairs of the individual sub-committees. We met last month to discuss the School Improvement Plans, our approach to and management of risk, and a review of the governing body as a whole looking at our skills and experience. Next term we will look to review and refresh our shared vision for the schools: creating opportunities, supporting aspiration and striving for excellence.

Personnel Committee

The governors would like to thank all staff who left at the end of term.

In the Infants, at the end of the summer term we said goodbye to Susan Jacob, as she moved to America, Maria Visser as she went back to Australia, and Rhiannon Bradley who is still on long term sick leave, but is recovering well and we looking forward to welcoming her back to school at Easter. To support her, some Infant staff members and governors took part in Shine Walk on September 23rd in aid of Cancer Research UK. We are thrilled to have raised £7,000.

The Infant School welcomed back Donna Excell from her maternity leave at the beginning of the Autumn term, and have appointed Vikki McLeod and Tanit Madanes to our teaching staff, and Ben Bushell, Priscilla Boateng Zainab Hafiji and Elisa Furlani to our team of Teaching Assistants. We would also like to thank Eleanor Furze for acting as the Infant Deputy Head Teacher during Amy Simpson's maternity leave, while still maintaining her role as Inclusion Leader. At the end of this term we said goodbye and good luck to Elizabeth Moore who is returning home to Australia.

Emma McCabe (Key Stage 1 Leader) and Janine Etuazim (Maths leader) are taking part in a Maths Mastery working group, and Laura Keady (Foundation Stage leader) is working on our school becoming a communication friendly setting for the early years.

The Junior School are delighted to have formally appointed Hannah Jones to our teaching staff and have welcomed back Cayte Cox to our teaching assistant team and Cara Christie, our Assistant Head Teacher from her maternity leave. We would also like to thank Riaz Khan for acting as Assistant Head Teacher during Cara Christie's maternity leave.

Safeguarding and Personal Development Committee

The role of the Safeguarding Committee is to ensure that the school fulfil all of their statutory responsibilities regarding the duty of care to all pupils. This term the committee met to bring all policies up to date, and make sure that these policies and procedures are consistent and effective for pupils, families and staff.

In September, all members of staff in both schools received an update to their safeguarding training. Jane Morris, the Barnet lead for Safeguarding and Child Protection training, presented to the Governing Body.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee meet twice a term and have the important responsibility of making sure that the money allocated to us by the government is used wisely, and provides assurance to Barnet that there is secure financial management in place. We ensure that the money is being spent on resources that add value to the children's learning and personal development, make savings where possible, and account for every penny. We look at everything from budgets to yearly provisions, pupil premium funding and all spending to date.

At each meeting, we review any external contracts which are due for renewal; this year the catering contract was reviewed and we are pleased to inform you that we are continuing to work with EDUCO who will be managing the process of reviewing/ tendering for our catering contract.

Chair of Governors:

Mark Leibling

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