



Creating opportunities, supporting aspiration, striving for excellence

Spring Newsletter

April 2014

As the spring term comes to a close, 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 holiday break.

School Budgets

The Governors have approved the 2014-2015 budgets for both schools. Thanks to both Headteachers, the Finance Committee and especially Katie Atwood (Chair of Finance) for all their hard work on this mammoth task. As you may know, the London Borough of Barnet no longer gives Brookland any money for our swimming pool. We are very lucky to have a swimming pool on site for all pupils to use and unless we make up our shortfall with parent contributions we cannot guarantee the future of the pool. As swimming will begin again next term, please contact the school offices if you are unsure whether or not you have made your voluntary contribution towards supporting this wonderful asset.

Curriculum Tea

Earlier this term, the governors hosted a tea for Infant and Junior staff as they attended a Development Plan meeting where staff from both schools came together to plan the next steps forward for their subjects. It is a very enjoyable and informative annual event where Governors can get involved, find out what goes on in school and work with the staff to develop the curriculum. The session began with an introduction to Numicon, a practical method of teaching numeracy.

The Curriculum Committee completed a review of subject policies and minor revisions were made. The Committee will undertake a full policy review linked to the new curriculum once they are ready (and which will go on into 2015), and at that time have a much more detailed discussion across the whole Committee group.

Going forward, a few governors will be assigned to get more involved with the actual data analysis to then feedback to the full Governing Body. If you have a particular interest in this area and would like to get involved as an associate 'data governor', please contact the Chair of Governors for more information.

The School Websites

Both the [Junior School](#) and [Infant School](#) have a website which is constantly being reviewed and updated. More information is available on them regarding all aspects of school and family life than ever before. This includes school policies, Pupil Premium Grant spending information, newsletters, minutes of meetings, fun games for children, links to helpful Barnet websites, and links to our MLE. We encourage you to use this important resource.

Nursery rewiring

The Nursery has now been completely rewired and the governors would like to thank staff, parents, carers and especially the children for their hard work and patience during a few difficult weeks.

Appropriate channels to raise concerns or complaints

Nationally, there is an increase in the use of social media websites and group email being used to fuel campaigns and complaints against schools, headteachers, school staff, and in some cases other parents/pupils. The school considers the use of social media websites in this way as not in the best interests of the children or the school community. If slanderous or defamatory comments are posted on Facebook or other social network sites, about the school, staff and all its community, the school will expect that any parent/carer or pupil responsible removes all comments immediately.

Any concerns that you may have about any aspect of school life must be made through the appropriate channels by speaking to the class teacher, the Headteacher or the Chair of Governors, so they can be dealt with fairly, appropriately and effectively for all concerned.

Pupil Premium Funding and Free school meals for Pupils in Reception, Y1 and Y2

From September 2014 all Infant children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will be entitled to a free hot meal under the Universal Infant Free School Meal initiative, funded by the government. This does not affect the very important Pupil Premium Grant that the school receives for children who are currently entitled to free school meals. This money is vital to our school and provides extra support and enrichment where the staff deem necessary. More information on the Pupil Premium Grant and how it is spent is available on both school's websites. If you feel that you are entitled to claim for this grant please contact your Headteacher for a confidential chat.

Parent's Association

We at Brookland are very lucky to have two very active and hardworking Parent's Associations. They have raised much-needed funds for our schools. We are very grateful to the Junior PA who have purchased a new oil tank for the swimming pool and many thanks go to the Infant PA for organizing a fun-filled quiz evening which raised over £4000 to be spent on updating the Infant IT provision.