

Brookland Junior School and Brookland Nursery and Infant School Governing Body



Creating opportunities, supporting aspiration, striving for excellence

Autumn Newsletter

November 2012

As our first newsletter of the 2012/13 academic year, 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 and we are immensely proud of the schools both for their outstanding academic record and for the nurturing environment that they provide for the children. If you have anything you want to discuss or share with the governors please contact the Chair using the email address at the foot of this page.

Governor Vision

The role of the Governing Body is threefold namely:

- to provide strategic direction
- to be a critical friend
- to ensure accountability

With this in mind we set about considering our vision, as governors, for the schools, to complement the existing vision and aims of the schools which can be found on their respective websites. After much discussion, we settled on the following words: *“Creating opportunities, supporting aspiration, striving for excellence”*. We hope you agree that this captures the essence, spirit and ethos of the schools in a simple clear statement of intent.

New Roles on the Governing Body

We have 20 governors at Brookland drawn from our parent and staff communities as well as from the London Borough of Barnet and the wider community. Both schools are managed by a single federated governing body. At our meeting in September we elected Mark Leibling as the new Chair and Laura Bier as the vice-Chair. We also appointed governors to the various sub-committees covering all aspects of school life including curriculum, finance, personnel, safeguarding, premises and communications. Photographs of the governors are posted on the notice boards in both schools.

School Trips

As governors we are required to approve all residential school trips. At our meeting on 15th November we were delighted to approve the educational visits to Moat Mount for the year 2 pupils and to Whitby for the year 6 pupils.

Academic Achievement

The Governors would like to congratulate all members of staff and the children for their outstanding achievements in last year's end of Key Stage Teacher Assessments (Y2 and Y6) and Y6 SATs. The analysis of the results was reviewed in detail by the Curriculum Committee as well as being discussed by the full Governing Body at our last meeting. Our pupils continue to make excellent progress and perform above both the national average and the average for the London Borough of Barnet. Going through the analysis makes one appreciate the amount of time and effort that the staff put into the process, from the setting of targets to the understanding and monitoring of each child's potential as well as the actual teaching and support provided. Well done and thank you!

Parents' and carers' behaviour

Unfortunately we continue to receive feedback from the head teachers of isolated incidents of poor parent behaviour in and around the school premises. Unacceptable behaviour includes verbal or written abuse, aggressive behaviour or violence towards any person in the school community. If a parent or carer displays unacceptable behaviour on site the school has the right to refuse their admittance in order to protect the whole community.

Parking and Driving

At Brookland we have a responsibility to act with courtesy and respect to our neighbours who live in close proximity to the schools. The Governing Body wholeheartedly supports the head teachers in their efforts against disrespectful parking and driving that is regularly communicated through their weekly newsletters. May we also remind all parents and carers to park considerately when dropping off and collecting children. You may have noticed that Barnet Council Civil Enforcement Officers are monitoring the situation at peak times and issuing penalty notices for illegal parking and/or driving. For your own benefit as well as that of other road users, please observe the voluntary one way system by driving *up* Brookland Rise and *down* Brookland Hill. And of course, if you are able to, please either walk to school or park a few minutes from the school gate and "park and stride".

Electrical Works

The Junior School has undergone a full electrical refurbishment during the summer and the final stage was completed during October half term. The school was built in 1952 so this was a welcome, and necessary, piece of work as the electrical demand has increased many fold with the introduction and growth of our technical demand. The swimming pool electrics are planned for the over the winter period and the Infant School is due to undergo the same process during the summer of 2013.