

## Brookland Junior School and Brookland Nursery and Infant School Governing Body



*Creating opportunities, supporting aspiration, striving for excellence*

### Summer Newsletter March 2016

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 to wish you all a good and restful break.

#### **Governor Updates**

The Governing Body is pleased to welcome a new co-opted governor, Sheryl Bekhor. Many of you will remember Sheryl as a recent teacher in the Junior School. Karen Tickner, Laura Pincus and Alex Taylor-Yeates are all coming to the end of their 4-year terms of office this month. Many thanks to them all for their service, particularly Karen and Alex whose children have moved on from the Infant school and therefore sadly we have to say goodbye to them as Infant parent governors. We also say farewell and extend thanks to Rebecca Simon who stood down earlier this year.

#### **Attendance**

Attendance is a big focus for Barnet and our schools this year. If your child is not in school, they cannot learn. Please ensure that your child attends school every day, and restrict appointments where possible to out of school hours. If you have any concerns about your child or would like advice on attendance please speak to the school offices.

#### **School Budgets**

The Governors have approved the 2016-17 budgets for both schools. Thanks to both Headteachers, the Finance committee and especially Vice Chair Katie Atwood for all their hard work on this huge undertaking. As you may already know, the London Borough of Barnet no longer gives Brookland Schools funding for the upkeep of our swimming pool. We are very lucky to have a swimming pool on site – it is part of the National Curriculum and many other schools have to travel, at considerable expense, to allow their students to fulfill this criterion. Unless we make up for this shortfall in parent contributions we cannot guarantee the future of the pool. As swimming starts again after the holiday break, please contact the school offices if you are unsure if you have made your voluntary contribution towards this valuable resource.

#### **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, 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 their input.

### **Curriculum Tea**

In January the governors hosted the annual joint Infant and Junior school curriculum tea. Subject leaders, governors and other staff members of both schools were given the opportunity to discuss and share details of the ongoing curriculum development. All staff are working very hard to integrate the changes to the National Curriculum into our wonderful "Creative Curriculum". If you have any questions regarding the curriculum for your child's year group please consult the websites or speak to your class teacher.

### **School Improvements**

Both schools are continually working to improve our schools and the school site. The Infant School is currently raising money for new toilets for the children and the Junior School has just installed path lights to the top playground gate across the field with a successful funding application resulting from their Gold Travel Plan Award.

### **Junior Safeguarding Audit**

Recently the Junior School had a Safeguarding Audit carried out by an external expert. She conducted a thorough evaluation of the procedures and spoke to several governors as well. The conclusion was that Brookland Junior School takes safeguarding very seriously, has a strong safeguarding culture and has all policies and procedures in place to make the school as safe as it could possibly be for everyone.

### **Procedure for Raising Concerns**

Please can parents/carers be reminded that any and all concerns should follow the appropriate channels. Speak to the class teacher first, a more senior member of staff or the Headteacher next (if necessary). For further information please refer to the Complaints Policy on the websites. It is helpful for everyone concerned if any matters are dealt with as soon as possible.

### **Parentmail**

Please ensure that the offices have your most up to date information, including your email address, home address and most importantly mobile number. Please can you also ensure that emergency contact numbers are correct in case we cannot reach you.

### **Approval of Residential Trips**

The Governing Body is required to approve all residential school trips. At our full governing body meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> of March we approved the educational residential visits to Moat Mount for the year 2 pupils and to Whitby for the year 6 pupils. We hope everyone enjoys these fun and educational trips.

**Prevent Duty Training**

Both schools and several governors attended training on the new Prevent Duty and learned how best to promote British values through our varied curriculum.

**Archer Academy Consultation**

The governors would like to thank the PAs of both schools for their assistance with the promotion of the Archer Academy Admissions Consultation. Brookland Junior School will have 15 feeder places to the Archer Academy starting in September 2017.

**Can you help?**

Parents and carers are always welcome at Brookland Schools to share their specialist skills. Currently we are looking for someone who has fundraising skills either in the commercial or charitable sectors to assist with several projects or people who know of avenues to apply for extra funding for both schools. If you have this type of experience please get in touch with either Head Teacher.