

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



Autumn Newsletter December 2015

## About the Governors

As the autumn term comes to a close, the Governors would like to take this opportunity to share a few things with our community and wish you all a very pleasant holiday break.

As this is our first newsletter of the 2015/16 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 developing policies to ensure that the children are safe and that their individual needs are met so they can achieve. 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! Everyone is special and unique. The Governing Body is immensely proud of both schools for their outstanding academic achievements and the nurturing environment that they provide for the children.

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 page. Please feel free to talk to governors during school events, or our parent governors on the playground. You can find further information about the governors on the [schools' websites](#). However, any specific queries or concerns about your child should be directed first to your class teacher, and then the Deputy or Head.

## Staffing and Governance

At our first Full Governing Body meeting of the year Mark Leibling and Katie Attwood were re-elected as Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively. We would also like to say thank you and farewell to Rebecca Simon, one of our community governors.

Many new members of staff have joined both schools and are settling in well. We welcome them all to our Brookland family.

## **School improvements**

The Infant school has a new nursery outdoor covered area, thanks to a special government grant. This will allow the nursery children to play outside and fulfill parts of their curriculum in all weathers. The Junior school has invested in one new iPad for each class as a teaching aid.

## **School trips**

One of the responsibilities of the governing body is to ensure that all of our school trips are safe for the children, staff and parent and carer volunteers. Each trip is carefully planned, and detailed risk assessments are completed before every trip, as well as taking into account any special needs. The governors monitor and review the Educational Visits Policy and make sure that rigorous systems are in place to keep everyone safe.

## **School events**

Thank you to everyone who helped the children put on wonderful assemblies for the holidays and throughout the term. We are very proud of the childrens many talents.

The Bonfire night organised by the Infant School PA was enjoyed by all. Many thanks to the PA and all staff, parents and carers who helped out on the night. We raised £1731 profit!

The Winter fair hosted by the Junior School was very successful, raising approximately £8000. This money will go towards improving our joint swimming pool and new dining room furniture. We are extremely grateful to the Junior PA and their energetic team for putting on a lovely community event for us all.

## **Curriculum**

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.

Both schools have continued to implement the Department of Educations' curriculum changes that have taken place and the children are rising to meet their new challenges. There are more details about each schools' curriculum on the websites.

## **Websites**

The Infant School has a new website and the Junior school is currently developing its new website, so watch this space. "FROG" was also re-launched in the Juniors this term so please have a look and make use of these valuable resources.

## **Parking and Driving**

Maintaining a good relationship with our neighbours and ensuring everyone's safety are high priorities for both schools. Please park considerately and adhere to the voluntary one-way system. More information on our Travel Plan and how to safely travel to school can be found on the websites. The governors are aware of Barnet's proposed traffic scheme for the Brookland residential area and several governors will represent the schools at the Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> December at 8pm, at Fellowship House.

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