

# The Governing Body

Brookland Junior School and Brookland Infant and Nursery School



*Creating opportunities, supporting aspiration, striving for excellence*

## Spring Newsletter

March 2015

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.

### Junior School Barnet Review

Recently the Junior school went through a day-long review by a Barnet panel comprised of a school inspector and several headteachers. This review was requested by the Junior school and is very beneficial to a school with a new headteacher. We are delighted to say that the review went very well, and the governors would like to thank the staff and children of the Junior School for all their hard work leading up to and throughout the day. The review largely concurred with the school's own Self Evaluation process and the output from the review will form part of the Junior School Development Plan (see below).

The school was particularly commended for its excellent mentoring programme. Both schools have a strong and successful record of using experienced teachers to mentor new staff as well as subject leaders carrying out regular internal training and knowledge sessions on a variety of topics.

### New Governors

The Governing Body is pleased to welcome two new governors - Tim Jackson (Junior parent governor) and Dennis Lam (Junior support staff governor). We would like to say farewell and extend thanks to Junior support staff governor Maria Chapman and Local Authority governor Erach Amaria for their years of service.

### Recruitment and Staffing Changes

Following a rigorous selection and interview process earlier in the term we are delighted to announce the appointment of Shirley Bates as the permanent Deputy Headteacher of the Junior School, continuing on from her role last year as acting Deputy Headteacher.

### School Budgets

The Governors have approved the 2015-16 budgets for both schools. Thanks to both Headteachers, the Finance committee and especially Chair of Finance 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 any 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 fulfil this criteria. 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.

## **Procedure for Raising Concerns**

Please can we remind parents/carers that any and all concerns should follow the appropriate channels. Speak to the class teacher first, the Headteacher next (if necessary) and then if you feel that you need to, the governors. 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.

## **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 and 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 a number of 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 Infants are continuing to update their ICT provision with the help of donations from our fantastic PA. Money raised at the recent Spring Event and auction will go towards new interactive white boards (IWBs) and updating playground equipment. The Juniors are working on their playground improvement project with funds raised from the PA Winter Fair and the money won in a poster designing competition by Adam Elkafass in year 5. The Juniors have also started to repair the hut ramps, funded by a government grant. Thank you for your patience while these essential works are carried out.

## **Approval of Residential Trips**

The Governing Body is required to approve all residential school trips. At our full governing body meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> March we approved the educational residential visits to Moat Mount for the year 2 pupils and to Whitby for the year 6 pupils.