



Brookland Junior School and Brookland Infant and Nursery School Governing Body



Creating opportunities, supporting aspiration, striving for excellence

As we approach the end of the school year the governors would like to take this opportunity to share a few things with all parents and carers and wish you all a lovely summer break. We would also like to thank all Brookland families for their support throughout the school year. The governors are always striving to make our two “Outstanding” schools even better, and our committees have worked very hard this year to achieve this.

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. 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, and everyone is special and unique. 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 newsletter.

Governor News

This year we said goodbye to Sara Wolfen, Harriet Bloom and Katie Fearn who have stood down from the governing body. They have all made a significant contribution as school governors and we wish them well with their future endeavors.

We are delighted to announce that we have appointed three new governors who will officially take up their roles in September. James Clare and Michael Fahri are current parents at Brookland and Shiv Haria-Shah has joined us as an independent governor from the local community. All three will join as co-opted governors and we look forward to welcoming them next term.

Curriculum Committee

This term, the governors have reviewed the data analysis from both schools regarding last year's results and the target setting for future years. 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. Provisional data shows that this year has been successful as well; this is to be confirmed in September. Both schools have also had an Attainment Review with a Barnet School Improvement Partner. Data has been reviewed and both schools' outcomes were judged as Outstanding.

In the Curriculum Committee, governors monitor and evaluate teaching through conversations with both Head Teachers, child's voice meetings and whole school meetings. We also look at project work and homework, and talk to the children when we visit the school.

The committee has discussed moderation and the Teaching and Learning Policies for both schools and the full governing body received presentations from subject leaders and staff on English, maths, assessment and SEN.

This year has seen many successes for both the Infant and the Junior schools. We are proud of the children for their excellent results in many extra-curricular competitions and tournaments, including chess, dance, debating, drama, maths, music, singing, science and sports and showcased their many talents and fantastic pieces of work at their Open Evenings.

We would like to wish goodbye and good luck to the Year 6 children in their future endeavors, and to the Nursery children who are going to Reception at other schools.

Strategy Committee

The Strategy Committee meets once a term to develop and review the school development plans. We also review the risks across each area of school life and discuss how we are managing these risks. Looking to the future, we are planning a session in September for all governors to discuss and refresh the vision for the schools over the next few years.

Communication and Community Engagement Committee

The Committee has met this year and a smaller working party has worked hard to make sure we are GDPR compliant. We have appointed Data Protection Officers, and have updated our Freedom of Information Policy and the Privacy Notices for staff, volunteers, applicants and pupils. We have a new GDPR Data Protection Policy, have audited the types of data that we hold, and have made sure our suppliers are GDPR compliant as well. The committee has also ensured that British Values such as democracy and tolerance are at the heart of our school.

Both schools are incredibly lucky to have such vibrant and active Parent's Associations. In the Infants we all enjoyed a wonderful Summer Fair, Mother's and Father's Day gifts, cake and lolly sales; in the Juniors the children had a Winter Fair, a "Summertime Ball" and a pyjama party. The staff and governors would like to thank them for all their hard work planning these events, raising much-needed funds.

The governors would like to thank all staff that recently led the successful residential trips to Moat Mount in the Infants and Osmington Bay in the Juniors. We are sure that some wonderful memories were made. The staff who accompany the children give up their personal time to ensure that the children can have these enriching experiences. A thank you also goes to staff that stay behind to look after the rest of the school.

Personnel Committee

The Personnel Committee has had a busy year. Staff wellbeing and teacher retention has been a focus for the committee this year. We have also reviewed the code of conduct for staff as well as for

governors to make sure that they are still fit for purpose, and discussed the staff structures of both schools and performance related pay. We say goodbye and thank you to staff who are leaving us at the end of this academic year.

Safeguarding and Personal Development Committee

The Safeguarding Committee has met three times this academic year. We have ensured policies are up to date, and that consistent, effective safeguarding procedures are in place for families, pupils and staff.

We are diligent in challenging the Head Teachers to ensure the schools are following all guidelines. A recent "Safeguarding Walk" around both schools gave governors the opportunity to ask students and teachers about how they stay safe at school. We would like to thank parents and carers for adhering to the guidelines laid out and thus helping to make our school a safe, happy place for our children.

If you do ever have any concerns please do not hesitate to contact our designated safeguarding leads; Mrs McCafferty in the Infant School and Ms Aylen in the Junior School.

Premises and Health and Safety Committee

Further to the last newsletter when we reported that the Committee had initiated discussions with a senior Director at Barnet Council regarding a replacement programme for some of the older stand-alone buildings, we are delighted to announce that the construction of a new 'Year 4' block is well underway. The block will house 4 classrooms, toilets, and a gym store and replaces the old and dilapidated buildings that previously served as the Year 4 classrooms.

The building is an environmentally-friendly modular-system similar to that of the new nursery that was completed last year. It is designed to be self-sufficient and features an advanced mechanical ventilation and heat-recovery system, solar panels for electricity and a sleek, modern design that will be a welcoming environment for children and teachers alike. It is scheduled to be operational by the start of this coming Autumn term.

The committee would like to thank the current year 4 and 5K staff and children who have been working from various other repurposed spaces around the school since the demolition of the previous block around 6 weeks ago. We are sure the effort will be worth it for many years to come.

We would also like to thank our caretakers James and Rupert for all their excellent work and continued help to maintain our school premises.

We will continue to put pressure on Barnet for further upgrades to the infrastructure of both schools going forward.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee has been busy reviewing the budgets. We have also had auditors in both schools and have looked at the reports and will be putting into place the suggestions that were given.

We also reviewed with both Head Teachers the new options for the school catering contract and agreed on AiP being the best option.

Chair of Governors:

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