

The Governing Body

Brookland Junior School and Brookland Infant and Nursery School



Creating opportunities, supporting aspiration, striving for excellence

Summer Newsletter

July 2017

As we approach the summer break the governors would like to take this opportunity to share a few things with all parents and carers and wish you all a very restful break. We would also like to thank all Brookland families for their support over the last 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.

Communication and Community Engagement

One of our goals this year was to raise the profile of the governors, and to engage even more with our neighbours and the wider community. The governors love visiting the schools and seeing the schools in action. One of the highlights of the year has been coming in to have lunch with the children. Having fish and chips with the Infants and being interviewed by School Council over mushy peas in the Juniors has helped the children understand a bit more about what we do. “It was a great lunch! We managed to learn so much over fish and chips. We learnt that most of the governors had a child at Brookland and also had other jobs. They still put in a lot of effort to help our school.” Y4/5 School Council.

The committee has also ensured that our Nursery Admissions procedures for the new 30-hour government initiative are in place, and made sure that British Values such as democracy are at the heart of our schools.

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.

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.

Maintaining a good relationship with our neighbours and ensuring everyone’s safety are high priorities. Please park considerately, adhere to the [voluntary one-way system](#), and try to walk more or “park and stride”. More information on our award-winning Travel Plans and how to travel safely to school can be found on the websites. A camera outside school has been installed by Barnet to deter stopping/parking around our school gates and on the zigzag lines. Thank you to the vast majority of our parents and carers who are considerate when coming to school.

Safeguarding

The governors on the Safeguarding Committee have a duty of care to ensure that the schools fulfils all of their statutory responsibilities. This academic year the committee has met 3 times and has ensured policies are up to date, and that consistent, effective safeguarding procedures are in place for families, pupils and staff.

We take the online safety of our pupils very seriously, and with the long stretch of summer coming, would like to remind parents and carers the importance of supervising your children when they are using electronic devices at home.

For more information, two useful websites are CEOP <https://ceop.police.uk>, and Thinkuknow <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk>. Please respect the schools' policy of not posting photos or videos taken in school on social networking sites.

One of the responsibilities of the governing body is to ensure that all of our school trips are safe for the children, staff and helpers. Each trip is carefully planned, and detailed risk assessments are completed before every trip, 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.

Curriculum

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, attend subject presentations, and talk to the children when we visit the school. We review the teaching and learning policies for each subject on a rolling basis every two years. This is part of the School Development Plan for both schools. Since January we have looked at the following policies - Home Learning, Science, PE and Gifted & Talented. When parents and children are asked about homework, the feedback consistently shows a broad range of views from too little to too much, to about right. The schools adopt the middle ground position of this opinion. Governors were interested to discuss the fact that Gifted and Talented policies referred to both social as well as academic abilities such as leadership skills. Children with these skills are afforded opportunities to shine through sport, charity, trips, and other extra-curricular activities such as the very successful chess club.

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, drama, maths, music, singing, science and sports. The Juniors showcased their many talents and fantastic pieces of work at their Open Evening, and this year have won the PE Gold Award.

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

The Governors would like to congratulate all members of staff and the children for their outstanding achievements in the end of Foundation Stage results, Y1 Phonics checks, Key Stage Teacher Assessments (Y2 and Y6) and Y6 SATs.

Provisional data has been released, to be confirmed in September. You can see from the data on the next couple of pages that nationally that both Brookland Schools have done very well, so congratulations to all. We thank all who have made these results possible.

Junior School SATs Data

	2017 School Test result	2016 School Test result	Barnet	National	Teacher assessed
Reading	85%	81%	76%	71%	90%
Grammar Punctuation and Spelling	93%	90%	75%	77%	
Writing (Teacher assessed)	90%	80%	75%	76%	90%
Maths	88%	84%	82%	75%	93%
Reading, writing, maths	78%	69%	65%	61%	86%

	School average scaled score	Barnet average	National average
Reading	106	106	104
Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling (GPS)	110	108	106
Maths	108	106	104

Raw score reading = 26 for scaled score of 100

Raw score GPS = 36 for scaled score of 100

Raw score maths = 57 for scaled score of 100

Percentage of higher achievers (110 scaled score and over)

	2017	2016	Provisional National
Reading	29%	26%	24%
Grammar Punctuation and Spelling	52%	43%	30%
Writing	41%	25%	18%
Maths	41%	31%	22%
Reading, writing and maths	16%	17%	9%

Infant School Data

Foundation Stage	2016-17	Barnet	National
Good Level of Development	74.4%	73.4%	70.7%
Phonics Y1	82.2%%	84.9%	81.4%
KS1	Expected or Above	Expected or Above	Expected or Above
Reading	83.0%	77.7%	75.6%
Writing	77.0%	70.4%	68.2%
Maths	79.0%	76.6%	75.1%

Premises and Health and Safety

The premises committee met twice this year. We continuously review health, safety and fire procedures, ensure all our policies are up to date, and make sure that the buildings are kept in the best possible condition with the help of our dedicated caretakers. We are happy to say that there will be a new Nursery building opening in September. We are also reviewing some potential improvements to some facilities which we hope to announce soon.

We are very lucky to have an on-site swimming pool to help us fulfil the swimming requirement of the National Curriculum. If you have not yet made your swimming contribution for the year yet please can you do so. The offices can check for you if you are unsure if you have paid for this year.

Finance

This committee meets twice a term and has the important responsibility of making sure that the money given to us by the government is used wisely, and provide assurance to Barnet that there is secure financial management in place. We ensure that the money is being spent on resources that add value to the children's learning and personal development, make savings where possible, and account for every penny. We also look at our Pupil Premium allocation and spending and make sure it is being used wisely and appropriately. This year the Juniors carried out a Pupil Premium audit.

The future of school funding is still unclear, but we are determined to get the best value and make the best use of the resources we have. At each meeting, we review any contracts for outside providers that are up for renewal; for example, this year the gardening, gas and printer contracts were reviewed to make sure we are getting value for money. While many schools have a deficit, we have managed the budgets to ensure that the schools have ended the financial year with a working contingency for emergencies.

Personnel

The governors would like to thank all those who are leaving us at the end of this year. In the Infants, we say goodbye and good luck to Maria Visser who is going travelling and then back to New Zealand to take up a teaching position there. We would like to thank her for all her hard work this last year and the fantastic start she has given to all the children in the Turtle class. Tuku Banerji is also leaving us as her temporary contract will be finished by the end of the year; we would like to thank her as well for stepping in at short notice and making the Owl class' last term a successful one. Amy Simpson, Haley McDermott and Anna Javorkova are still on maternity leave, but will be returning at some stage next academic year. Rhiannon Bradley is still on long term sick leave, but will hopefully return at some stage next academic year as well. To support her, some Infant staff members and governors are walking the half marathon Shine Walk on September 23rd in aid of Cancer Research UK. We would really appreciate any sponsorship for the team – you can donate here: <https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/team/brookland-infants>.

The Infants welcome a new member of staff to our outstanding teaching team - Lorraine Coleman is joining us in September in Year 2 in the Owl class, which we are very excited about.

In the Juniors we say farewell to Lorraine Mount who is leaving to spend more time with her family, and we have welcomed back Cara Christie from her maternity leave.

Staff and governors alike have been working hard on their professional development, attending courses and joint sessions with other schools on subjects as varied as Curriculum subjects, Fire Warden training, Safeguarding and Child Protection, Prevent Duty, Assessment and Marking. INSET days are vital to staff and governors for planning short and long term goals and for staff training.