



Creating opportunities, supporting aspiration, striving for excellence

Autumn Newsletter

December 2014

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.

About the Governors

As this is our first newsletter of the 2014/15 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, implementing and monitoring various policies to ensure that the children are safe and that their individual needs are met so they can achieve their full potential. 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 or on the noticeboards around the schools.

Staffing and Governance

The Governing Body is pleased to welcome Jenny Aylen into her role as full-time Head teacher of the Junior School. 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 thank them both for their continued service.

We would also like to say a huge thank you and farewell to Jane Himes, our wonderful swimming teacher for the past 34 years! Over her time with us she has taught thousands of Brookland children to swim. We wish her all the best for the future.

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 children's many talents.

Despite the wet weather, 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.

The Winter Fair hosted by the Junior School was very successful, raising over £5000. This money will go towards improving and updating playground equipment and resources. 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 Key Stage Teacher Assessments (Y2 and Y6) and Y6 SATs.

Both schools have begun, with great success so far, implementing the Department of Education's curriculum changes that have taken place. There are more details about each school's curriculum on the websites.

Driveway Barrier

As you may well now know, a barrier across the driveway was installed over the summer. We are happy to report that it has made the site a much calmer and safer place for everyone. We would like to thank everyone for their cooperation and respecting the hours that the driveway can be used. As a reminder, the driveway barrier is down between 8:15am and 5:45pm.

Parking and Driving

Maintaining a good relationship with our neighbours and ensuring the safety of everyone in our community are high priorities for both schools. Please park considerately and adhere to the voluntary one-way system to prevent gridlock along Brookland Rise and Brookland Hill. More information on how to safely travel to school can be found on the websites.

Junior School Survey

We are keen for parents and carers with children in the Junior School to register with [Ofsted's Parent View](#) to let the school, Ofsted and the public know your views about the school. At this point in the year we are reviewing the school's successes and strengths and setting targets for further developments. Your views form a key part of this process.