



BROOKFIELD SCHOOL

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Governor's Newsletter Summer Term 2015

Welcome to the final newsletter of the term. It's been another great year at Brookfield. As well as sustaining high levels of academic achievement, the school has made an important step in defining its values and long term vision and in becoming a Level 1 Rights Respecting School. We believe these will contribute to making Brookfield an even better place in which to learn, to work and to participate in. Thanks to the wholehearted commitment of the PTA and the support of the parent/carer body and staff there have been some fantastic school events which not only have raised a significant amount of money but have done much to foster the wonderful Brookfield community spirit. As much as we recognise the school's many achievements, as a governing body we encourage the school to be a 'restless' one, always seeking ways in which to improve and are pleased that the school responds so positively to the many challenges it faces.

At every full Governing Body meeting, the school reports to the governors on a specific school priority or ongoing area of work. This term we had a presentation on the nursery and reception - or what's called the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). This has been a key priority for the school this year - prompted by the Ofsted inspection last summer which advised the school to introduce more challenge in classroom activities, particularly literacy, and to enrich our indoor and outdoor environments. EYFS Phase Leader, Michelle Nelis, gave us a comprehensive account of how the school has been working towards this with visits to other nursery settings, working with a landscape designer to transform the garden, a focus on literacy, increased staff training and the introduction of Forest Schools. Development is ongoing and next year, staff will work on an agreed 'vision' for the Early Years, outlining the start to learning that it aims to provide.

At the final meeting of the year we asked Mark and Laurel to assess how the school has met the year's priorities and to outline the priorities for the year ahead. They also gave us a very comprehensive account of this year's SAT results. As you can read below, we are pleased to report that yet again Brookfield has achieved very good results at KS1 (Year 2) and has done particularly well at KS2 (Year 6). We would like to congratulate the pupils and the staff for the effort that went into achieving this. The school has also done well in terms of meeting its priorities: there are improved results and development in the EYFS; staff have implemented the new national curriculum and most subjects are in the process of being embedded; the school achieved Level 1 accreditation for Rights Respecting School; there has been very positive feedback from staff about the new phase leadership and senior leaders are more involved in the classrooms. Early next year, we will know if we have increased the numbers of pupil premium children performing above expectations in reading, writing and maths.

Next year's priorities are likely to include: a continued focus on pupil premium achievement; developing the phase leadership role; consolidating the work carried out on Rights and Respect; a focus on maths across the school; developing the children's resilience and thinking skills; renewing the school's Healthy Schools status;



better management of support staff and implementing a new assessment system to measure how the children are achieving and progressing. The latter is because the Government has scrapped the current assessment system which gives the children a level in the core subjects eg 2a, 4b etc. They haven't mandated a specific system to replace it so Brookfield is working closely with other schools in the area and with the Local Authority to agree the best way to track and measure progress. We will report back to you next year on the agreed priorities and will continue to update you on progress.

Each of the committees met twice this year and below are their reports for this term.

Learning and Achievement Committee (LAC)

As ever, a very busy term for the Learning and Achievement Committee which ended with very positive news regarding SATS results at both KS1 and in particular KS2. Whilst the school should not let itself be defined by these scores alone, these results clearly demonstrate that, whilst at Brookfield, boys and girls from all backgrounds are making profound progress in the core subjects (English, Maths and Science). The rate of progress is certainly higher than the national average and amongst the highest in high performing Camden. Our pupils achieve higher than nationally and even though this Year's KS1 results are down on last year's, the pupils started from a lower baseline. In other words their progress will still be very good and significantly higher than the national average. Most telling perhaps, is that the percentage of children doing very well (i.e. Level 5+ in year 6) in both Maths and English is rising year on year.

KS1 - L2 Results

	2011 (current Y6s)	2012	2013	2014	2015
Reading	92%	91%	90%	97%	90%
Writing	95%	84%	87%	93%	87%
Maths	93%	84%	93%	97%	92%
Science	90%	88%	80%	97%	85%

KS1 - L3 Results

	2011 Current Y6s)	2012	2013	2014	2015
Reading	37%	32%	30%	46%	33%
Writing	24%	16%	15%	22%	17%
Maths	22%	18%	13%	24%	20%
Science	37%	18%	13%	36%	28%

KS2 - L4 Results

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Reading	91%	96%	93%	98%	98%
Writing	73%	86%	96%	95%	94%
SPAG			78%	82%	81%
Maths	80%	88%	93%	97%	94%
Science	89%	89%	91%	93%	91%

KS2 - L5 Results

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Reading	59%	65%	62%	60%	67%
Writing	29%	37%	58%	51%	61%



SPAG			60%	60%	70%
Maths	43%	40%	69%	57%	58%
Science	48%	38%	52%	46%	57%

KS2 - L6 Results

	2012	2013	2014	2015
Reading	2%	0%	0%	2%
Writing	2%	9%	5%	4%
SPAG		9%	2%	9%
Maths	11%	16%	17%	19%

KS2 Combined English and Maths Results

	L3+ English and maths	L4+ English and maths	L5+ English and maths	L6+ English and maths
2012	98%	86%	37%	2%
2013	98%	91%	47%	0%
2014	98%	93%	36%	0%
2015	100%	93%	54%	2%

Various members of staff presented to the committee. We heard from Polly regarding provisions for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). It is noted that this cohort is making good progress. The committee supported a request for a quiet sensory area and work zone - to help children with SEND who need time out of the classroom or playground. There was also exploration of the ways that able children can be adequately stretched throughout the school. Our SAT results suggest these children are served well at the school but the committee discussed feedback from some parents who feel more can be done, particularly in the middle years. Computing lead, Georgie, spoke to the committee outlining the changes to the new curriculum which focus much more on coding than on using specific programmes. She reported enthusiasm for the new curriculum from staff and pupils and an increased and creative use of iPads. The committee discussed the ways in which social media, eg class blogs, might be used to keep parents informed of day to day matters in the classroom. Next term, Georgie will be passing on the mantle of computing Lead to Dan as she moves to maths lead.

LAC has held the school to account in maintaining momentum on the vision and values recently agreed by all sectors of the school community. This informs the priorities that the school sets for itself, the whole school ethos and the day to day interactions between staff, pupils and parents. LAC was also closely involved in monitoring the process by which the school recently achieved its Level 1 Rights Respecting School status.

Melanie reported on FAB projects this term as well as outlining next year's plans and the committee was pleased to note how responsive the school has been to feedback from previous FAB initiatives. The projects now aim to be more child focused, to concentrate more on the process of creating and to give the teachers new and lasting skills.

Personnel, Salaries and Wellbeing Committee (PSWB)



During the last two terms we have adopted a statement which sets out the values which we hope and believe underpin all aspects of our school life. More recently Brookfield has passed Level 1 of the Rights Respecting schools award with flying colours. Both these initiatives impact on the work of the Personnel, Salaries and Wellbeing (PSWB) committee as we seek to create the conditions, and culture, so what is written on pieces of paper becomes a living reality for everyone in the school. Mark and the staff share our commitment to create the conditions in which these high standards of professional practice can flourish. One example of achieving this is the introduction of a more rigorous phase leader structure during the past year. Senior leaders are in the classrooms more often, teaching lessons and providing support and are therefore more in touch with everyday classroom life. We believe this has contributed to the current high levels of pupil achievement and reported high levels of staff satisfaction. The expanded leadership team means it is an expensive structure and, with cuts ahead, we will continue to evaluate its effectiveness.

Setting up consultative groups to study specific issues is proving an effective and inclusive method in reviewing current practice and recommending changes. Group membership includes senior management, teaching and support staff, parents, carers and governors in varying combinations. The anti bullying consultation group met last week, a year after it had worked on a new bullying policy and set of good practice recommendations. Laurel reported back on the progress of the recommendations that came from the group's work, most of which have now been implemented. The revised anti - bullying policy will go to the governing body for approval early next term and, like all policies, will be posted on the website, as will a revised behaviour policy.

As reported last term, another consultation group has worked intensively studying the role of support staff. Some of the many recommendations of this group have already been implemented; others are planned for the following year.

Lastly, this is the time of year when some staff move on and others join us; last year a number of teachers did so, but this year, although there are the inevitable comings and goings, fewer are doing so and in both instances to relocate out of London. As we welcome new staff joining us in September, we thank everyone for their committed work towards the school and recognize the tremendous value our staff bring - they are our most valuable asset.

Finance Committee

We have as usual been looking at the outcome for this current financial year which runs to 31st March. Although there have been a number of small changes, the net effect of these have been minimal and the likely outcome is in line with our original budget.

More significantly, Camden have been flagging up that there are likely to be some significant changes to funding. To provide some context, schools throughout the country are likely to face significant real terms cuts in funding, because the amount that the government provides in the dedicated schools grant (DSG) will not keep pace with the additional costs that schools will have to meet. The government is also committed to introducing a national "fairer funding" scheme which may also impact our funding. Camden has asked all of its schools to draw up three year forecasts which they will review with us. We have been told that we should have a greater degree of certainty by the end of the year on what the likely outlook is and we will of course keep the wider school community updated on these conversations. We also continue to explore other opportunities to generate income: e.g. looking at some of the grants that may be available.

Finally the school may be facing two potentially expensive repairs which are not covered under our new traded services agreement with Camden; both relating to the school's roof.



Premises Committee

The committee has been overseeing the development of the nursery outdoor area - one of this year's key priorities. Work continues on this and is expected to be completed over the summer holidays.

The Premises Committee made a submission to the consultation on the potential development of the Mansfield Bowling Club - setting out the value that additional local sporting facilities would potentially have for school. We will continue to monitor developments.

The Premises Committee also set out its priorities for next year to include the development of the key stage 2 playground and creating a dedicated SEND room onsite.

Governor Drop In

The experiment with an evening Governor Drop in did not attract its usual numbers but the interesting issue of how the school can support bi-lingual families in developing their language skills was raised.

Finally

We want to thank all those who have volunteered their time and talents to the school this term. In particular we would like to thank the PTA and chairs Anna, Karin and Rebecca for making Brookfest such a fabulous event and to the staff for a wonderful International Evening and a 'We are FAB Arts Day'.

We hope you all have a fantastic summer break.

Best wishes

Governing Body

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To find out more about the Governing Body please go to the school's website where full Governing Body minutes can be viewed. If you have any comments or suggestions or want to know more about the work we do, we can be contacted by email at the address above or drop us a note at the office.

