

Brookfield Primary School

Governors' newsletter
Autumn term 2012



The governors wish all pupils parents, carers, teachers and staff a happy Christmas. We would like to congratulate the school and pupils on another successful term. The maths week and evening and the FAB maths/arts project were among several memorable highlights. We also congratulate the school for becoming accredited with the Camden Award for Inclusion and Primary Science Quality Mark Gold. The governors would like particularly to thank the teachers and staff without whose energy and dedication these successes would not be possible. In this newsletter we have set out some information and news which we hope you will find interesting and useful.

Learning and Achievement

The Learning and Achievement Committee has met twice this term and discussed details of the latest SATS results. The committee was pleased to note that the results were the school's best ever at Key Stage 2 and placed the school above averages in Camden and nationally. As well as the encouraging headline results on overall progress and achievement the data also showed good trends when broken down into subsets of the school. There is no complacency though and the school improvement plan was discussed, noting the ambitious set of goals with a particular focus on maths this year. Members of the committee visited an outstanding school in Potters Bar to see what might be learned from practice there. The committee also went through the year-by-year progress and attainment targets, had a discussion about how the school monitors equality of opportunity for sport, clubs etc across the school, and had a comprehensive discussion of the school's plans for maths this year, based on a report from Rob Fellows. The Pupil Premium has been spent on projects aimed at raising attainment like the Skills for Life project and the committee was pleased to note that the numbers of children achieving Level 4 in the Key Stage 2 SATs rose significantly. The committee has also been discussing with the school ways to meet the needs of high attaining pupils through an enriched curriculum and quality teaching. Royal Institute maths master classes have been arranged for next term. Philosophy club started this term. Melanie will be accompanying some keen scientists to the Royal Institute for a lecture next term.

The latest Key Stage 2 results and progress data are reproduced below:

Key Stage 2

% Level 4	2009	2010	2011	2012
English Brookfield	85%	85%	80%	91%
National	80%	80%	81%	85%
Maths Brookfield	80%	80%	80%	88%
National	79%	79%	80%	84%
Science Brookfield	82%	87%	89%	90%
National	86%	85%	85%	87%
% Level 5	2009	2010	2011	2012
English Brookfield	35%	46%	43%	47%
National	29%	33%	29%	37%
Maths Brookfield	38%	37%	43%	40%
National	35%	34%	35%	39%
Science Brookfield	38%	37%	48%	38%
National	38%	37%	35%	n/a

NB 6 pupils (11%) also secured a L6 in maths and one child (2%) secured a L6 in literacy.

Value added

Subject	Literacy	Numeracy	Overall
Value Added Score	101.9 (top 3%)	101.2 (top 16%)	101.6 (top 7%)

- Last year 100% of pupils made at least 2 levels progress from KS1 to KS2 in English
- 93% made at least 2 levels progress in Maths
- These progress scores placed the school overall in the top 7% of schools nationally and top 3% for English
- Overall value added (101.6) equates to the children receiving an additional 6 months worth of education at KS2.

This main challenge this year will be to ensure that all children in Y6 make the expected progress and that a high percentage of children achieve level 5 and 6 to enable the school to continue achieving outstanding progress. The school has agreed a range of interventions which will help to achieve the above objectives.

The School's Finances

The Finance Committee meets twice a term to review school finances and agree the school budget. Pupil premium funding, which targets attainment of children who are or have been on free school meals, is projected to be £900 per child for 2013-14 rising to £1200 per child in 2014-15. We are delighted to confirm that Camden will be reintroducing free fulltime provision for all nursery children from next September. There are also a number of planned changes to schools' funding and special needs funding which are also being discussed at Camden. Overall, we have been told to anticipate a 3% reduction in real terms in the levels of funding, however, based on the information we have at present, there is no major cause for concern for 2013-14 funding.

The School Building and Environment

The Premises Committee met twice this term to discuss the school building and environment and update the maintenance schedule. During the summer vacation improvements were carried out in the junior playground. Peggy's Ship play structure was upgraded to provide a more challenging configuration and a new quiet area was installed and children have been instructed on safety. The committee will be considering further ways of providing more space in the junior playground. As part of Camden's Community Investment Programme, work was carried out over the summer to improve safety within the school and install items to help reduce energy use and lower carbon emissions. The fire alarm system was upgraded, new lightning conductors installed and problems with the school's water pipe sorted out. New boilers, radiator valves and reflectors were installed and a much needed air conditioning system added to the IT Suite. The committee has continued to put pressure on Camden Council to install an extra crossing at the junior gate in Croftdown Road. We have been told that plans for a narrowing of the road at that point will be put out for consultation in the New Year and any subsequent works will take place in the summer of 2013. In the meantime parents are urged to ensure children cross roads safely. Members of the committee have also been attending meetings held by the Friends of Highgate Library with a view to looking at the future of the vacated mobile library space behind the main library which is adjacent to the infant playground. Discussions concerning the use of the space by the community are ongoing.

Personnel and Wellbeing

The Personnel, Salaries and Wellbeing (PSWB) committee has this term kept abreast of a succession of new regulations and guidance from both central government and the local authority. The committee aims to set policies for the school which are both proportionate and accessible for parents and carers, for the staff who have to work to them and for the children who need to be clear about expectations and procedures. These factors are particularly relevant to the behaviour and anti-bullying

policies which were both approved by the governing body at its December meeting. All policies are regularly reviewed and are posted on the website. The committee's regular work continues in its twice termly meetings when written reports on any bullying, behaviour or safeguarding concerns are carefully discussed and monitored. The committee also reviews attendance of staff and pupils and any pupil exclusions.

Engagement with parents and carers

Actions arising from the governor's survey into communication and engagement are now being implemented. Mark led the first of his Headteacher's updates and governors have started to run half-termly drop-in sessions. The school calendar on the web-site has now been designed and is in the process of being populated. Parents have had an opportunity to come into class this term as part of the school's regular open mornings.

Finally

The governors are happy to welcome onto the Governing Body new community governor, Justine Thornton, and new staff governor Rokib Ali. The governors also want to congratulate and thank Polly and the new PTA, Rebecca, Richard, Jo and Marie for another fantastic Winter Fair. We also say farewell and many thanks to the outgoing PTA team Ian, Gregor and Kersti for their energy and dedication to the important work the PTA does. To all the children and staff and to all the parents, carers and members of the community who volunteer their time and talent, the governors would like to say many thanks to all of you and wish you a happy new year.

Best wishes

Governing Body

Brookfield Primary School

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December 2012

The Governing Body at Brookfield takes a strategic overview of the running of the school. We work closely with the school management team in developing the school's development plans. Governors set standards and objectives, review policies and approve the school's budget. We support, challenge and advise the school. Governors work within four committees to deal with different areas of the school's work. You can find out more about the governors and who we are at the school's website where full Governing Body minutes can also be viewed. If you have any comments or suggestions we can be contacted by e-mail at the address above or drop us a note. If you want to become involved in the Governing Body or if you have any areas of expertise that might be useful to any of the areas discussed above do get in touch. Our aim is that our governors are broadly representative of the community.