

Brookfield Primary School

Governors' Newsletter Summer Term 2013



Welcome to our final newsletter of the year. We would like to congratulate the school and pupils on a successful school year with so many memorable highlights. The governors would like particularly to thank the many parents and carers who, alongside teachers and staff, contributed so much to these successes.

The Governing Body

Governors are committed to raising standards for all children of all abilities. The governors believe that an enriched, wide curriculum can combine with a commitment to academic achievement and excellent progress across the school. For that reason governors were particularly pleased that the many wider opportunities offered by the school this year ran alongside the school's best ever SATS results (see below). The Governing Body last met on 12 July. The Headteacher made a presentation to governors on the school's key priorities for 2013/14 which will include a renewed focus on raising standards of maths, spelling and handwriting, and the use of the pupil premium to support disadvantaged children's learning.

Learning and Achievement

The Learning and Achievement Committee, chaired by parent governor Jon Butterworth, meets with members of the senior leadership team to review targets and standards of achievement and attainment. There was discussion this term about the impact of Fabulous Arts at Brookfield (FAB) and the way FAB projects integrate into teaching and learning at the school. This term the school also extended its exemption from the requirement for daily Christian acts of worship. The Home-School Agreement and the Out-of-Hours Learning policy were reviewed and ratified (see website). The homework policy and its implementation were discussed again, and much progress was made on a new overarching Teaching & Learning policy. The committee had a subject review with Ben Henry on ICT provision, and as always was kept informed of the progress of the different cohorts throughout the school – including another excellent year of SATs results. The committee also discussed a report from Polly about provision for able children.

2013 Key Stage 2 SATS results

	2010	2011	2012	2013
English	85%	80%	91%	n/a
Reading	89%	91%	96%	93%
Writing	74%	73%	86%	96%
Spelling, punctuation & grammar	n/a	n/a	n/a	78%
Maths	80%	80%	88%	93%
Science	87%	89%	89%	91%

Level 5 Results

	2010	2011	2012	2013
English	46%	43%	47%	n/a
Reading	69%	59%	65%	62%
Writing	9%	29%	37%	58%
Spelling, punctuation, & grammar	n/a	n/a	n/a	60%
Maths	37%	43%	40%	71%
Science	37%	48%	38%	52%

KS2 attainment

- The expected level is Level 4
- The school achieved our highest ever L4 SATs results in writing (96%), Maths (93%) and Science (91%)
- The school maintained high results in reading at both L4 (93%) and L5 (62%)
- The school achieved our highest ever L5 results in writing (58%), maths (71%), and science (51%)
- Overall L4 and L5 results will continue to be above national average
- Our combined L4 and L5 results for English and Maths rose to their highest levels (91% L4 and 47% L5)

The School's Finances

The Finance Committee, chaired by community governor Fiona Miller-Smith, met twice this term to look at the school's income and expenditure and authorise major expenditure. The budget for the school for this financial year was signed off by a meeting of the full Governing Body and notified to Camden in May. The school receives a proportion of funding via the pupil premium. This funding is specifically targeted to raise the attainment of children entitled to free school meals. Next year the school will spend some of that money to employ a teacher and teaching assistant to help narrow the gap in achievement as well as on other initiatives including additional music lessons. Next term we will be exploring some initiatives to promote school dinners across all year groups.

The School Building and Environment

The Premises Committee, chaired by community governor David Snewin, discusses the school building and environment. During the summer term the Premises Committee have been examining plans to reconfigure the space in the Junior Playground. Much thought was given to moving the football pitch to the underused space near the Croftdown Road entrance. After consultation with an experienced playground design advisor, staff and children it was agreed that the best solution would be to move the basketball pitch to that space. This space would be made wider to accommodate the pitch which would result in a small amount of space being taken from the end of the nursery garden. It is expected that this change will leave a better open space, adjacent to the football pitch, for free play during break times and P.E. Other improvements included in the overall scheme would be to replace the fencing around the football pitch with higher fencing, install astroturf on the pitch and improve access at the Croftdown Gate by installing a ramp. It was hoped that these changes would take place over the summer but difficulties with placing orders with contractors and achieving value for money means that the work will have to be rescheduled when a suitable contractor is found. Other work will be done around the school over the summer.

Personnel and Wellbeing

The Personnel, Salaries and Wellbeing Committee (PSWB), chaired by vice-chair of governors Helen Martyn, aims to ensure that staff have the best possible conditions of work so that pupils benefit from motivated teachers and support staff who work to their highest possible standards. To this end the committee advises on the best deployment of staff and assists with recruitment and promotion of staff. Equally important is the wellbeing of all children. The committee monitors safeguarding concerns and hears about children who may be troubled and/ or underperforming. The committee also monitors behaviour, incidents of bullying and any exclusions.

Parental engagement

Last year we did a survey on parental engagement and we were pleased that newly introduced measures such as the Headteacher's update, governors' drop in sessions, the online calendar and open mornings have proved successful. We will be building on those successes next year and will be looking at ways that we can overcome barriers to parental involvement. Governors believe that better parental involvement is connected to higher levels of achievement in children.

Congratulations to the PTA

The governors congratulate the PTA team Jo, Rebecca, Marie and Richard who have done a great job involving parents right across school, particularly at the international themed summer fair. The governors loved the cookbook too, and encourage parents and carers to come forward to continue the important and rewarding work of the PTA.

Finally

The school bids farewell to the Year 6 children. We wish all those leaving Brookfield every success in the future. We will be saying goodbye to several teachers and support staff at the end of term. Goodbye to teachers Ben, Sarah and Lisa and support staff Shelley, Sarah, Faye, Sophie, Charlotte, Susan and Joe. We wish them all well with their future careers. We say thank you to Rob for being an excellent acting deputy head this year. We also say a big farewell and thanks to governor Jon Butterworth who has come to the end of his term as parent governor during which he has made an outstanding contribution to the school. We welcome new parent governors Mike Yule and Joujou Makele.

Finally we would like to take this opportunity to say thanks to all staff, parents and the PTA whose energy and commitment make our Brookfield community so exceptional.

Best wishes

Governing Body
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18 July 2013

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 with chair of governors Oliver Lewis. Our aim is that our governors are broadly representative of the community.