

Brookfield Primary School

Governors' Newsletter Summer Term 2014



Welcome to our final newsletter of the year. This has been an extraordinary year for Brookfield with academic success, memorable events to celebrate the school's centenary, Madness playing in the school playground, sports success, a brilliant science week and a positive Ofsted report.

Learning and Achievement

Governors are committed to raising standards for all children of all abilities. The governors were particularly pleased that the many wider opportunities offered by the school this year ran alongside the school's excellent academic achievements and SATS results.

Key Stage 1 (Year 2)

We were delighted to see the school report its best ever KS1 results with 97% of pupils achieving a Level 2 (the expected level) in reading, maths and science and 93% achieving it in writing. The school also achieved significant increases in the number of pupils achieving a Level 3 (exceeding expectations) – 46% in reading, 22% in writing, 24% in maths and 36% in science.

| <u>KS1 –L2</u> | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Reading | 92% | 91% | 90% | 97% |
| Writing | 95% | 84% | 87% | 93% |
| Maths | 93% | 84% | 93% | 97% |
| Science | 90% | 88% | 80% | 97% |

| <u>KS1 – L3</u> | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Reading | 37% | 32% | 30% | 46% |
| Writing | 24% | 16% | 15% | 22% |
| Maths | 22% | 18% | 13% | 24% |
| Science | 37% | 18% | 13% | 36% |

Key Stage 2 (Year 6)

At KS2 the school's results at L4 (the expected level) were higher than last year's excellent results in reading (98%), writing (98%), SPAG - spelling, punctuation and grammar (82%), maths (97%) and science (93%). The L5 results (exceeding expectations) were slightly down on the previous year but still extremely high compared to expected results nationally. 5% of pupils also achieved a L6 in writing, 2% in SPAG and 17% in maths.

| <u>KS2 – L4</u> | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 |
|------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Reading | 91% | 96% | 93% | 98% |
| Writing | 73% | 86% | 96% | 95% |
| SPAG | N/A | N/A | 78% | 82% |
| Maths | 80% | 88% | 93% | 97% |
| Science | 89% | 89% | 91% | 93% |

| <u>KS2 - L5</u> | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 |
|------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Reading | 59% | 65% | 62% | 57% |
| Writing | 29% | 37% | 58% | 51% |
| SPAG | N/A | N/A | 60% | 60% |
| Maths | 43% | 40% | 69% | 57% |
| Science | 48% | 38% | 52% | 46% |

| <u>KS2 – L6</u> | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 |
|------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Reading | 2% | 0 | 0 |
| Writing | 2% | 9% | 5% |
| SPAG | N/A | 9% | 2% |
| Maths | 11% | 16% | 17% |

The Learning and Achievement Committee (LAC) this term reviewed the initial SAT results for KS1 and KS2 and analysed the pupil progress for each class since the beginning of the year. The committee would like to congratulate the staff and the pupils for all their hard work in achieving such fantastic results. Next term we will scrutinise the results further when we have the breakdown of how different groups achieved such as pupil premium and special educational needs. We were pleased by the progress of all year groups across the school. We were particularly pleased to see that the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) results had risen to 62% of children achieving a 'good' level of development, a big rise on the 37% achieved last year in comparison to 52% nationally. We continue to challenge the school where progress has been slower and are reassured the school is effectively monitoring and responding. The committee also discussed the recent Ofsted inspection. We felt the report was an accurate assessment of the school's strengths and that the points for development were helpful in clarifying the way forward. Several of these are reflected in the draft school improvement plan for next year eg making improvements to the provision in the EYFS. The committee also reviewed the feedback the school received from parents, pupils, staff and the adults involved in the centenary production which raised wider questions about project objectives, communication, pupil creativity and staff time. The committee has asked that the useful lessons learnt from the project feed into future FAB projects. The committee also had a report on the new national curriculum which comes in from September. In some subjects eg history, the changes have been considerable. The committee also reviewed a document about the school's provision for pupils with special educational needs (SEN) which will go live on the school's website in September. The document is called the school's 'local offer' and it outlines what the school provides for pupils with SEN and what they and their parents can expect from the school.

The School's Finances

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. How that money is spent and outcomes can be viewed on the school website.

The School Building and Environment

The planned redevelopment of the Junior Playground will go ahead during the summer holidays. The football pitch will be renewed with astro turf and higher fencing, the Croftdown entrance will be redeveloped with access for wheelchairs and that section of the playground made wider by approximately 1 metre. The toilets that are adjacent to the Junior Playground are to be refurbished with the cubicles and flooring renewed. Inside the building the disabled access toilet will be relocated to the main corridor next to the medical room. The School Council had suggested improvements to the Infant Climbing Frame with a bridge being added to the structure. This work will be carried out in conjunction with planned maintenance to school climbing frames. Meanwhile Camden Council is providing funds to reduce Brookfield's energy consumption. During the coming six months Camden will survey the school and working with the School Site Officer Derek Hayden, will produce a plan and installation schedule for the improvements. Items to be evaluated are energy monitoring, lighting and associated controls, catering fan controls, building insulation, ICT equipment. PV solar panels will be considered if funds are available after above works have been carried out. Drinking water taps have now been installed in all classrooms.

Personnel and Wellbeing

This has been a busy term for governors on the Personnel, Salaries and Wellbeing (PSWB) committee for recruitment and developing a new anti bullying policy as a joint initiative from a group of parents, staff and governors. Our aim is to clarify the procedure for identifying the relatively few incidents of bullying in the school and to make our processes widely known so that all members of the school community can have confidence to report any concerns knowing that they will be carefully considered. Looking ahead to next year, the committee is very much looking forward to supporting the school's new leadership structure. This will see a member of the senior leadership team each working with a particular school phase (nursery and reception; Y1 and Y2; Y3 and Y4; Y5 and Y6). We believe this will continue to develop classroom practice and pupil learning.

Parental engagement

This year saw the successful launch of the Ambassador initiative which was part of the effort of the school to build links to all parts of the Brookfield community. The school now has 9 Ambassadors who have been playing an active role building links between individual communities and the school. We hope to build on that next year and expand the number of Ambassadors. The Ambassadors have played in an important role in championing a number of

issues like after school support provision (Maths Club) and support materials (online and physical) that we will continue to work on in the new school year. This year also saw the launch of the survey “Encouraging Parental Engagement”. The survey whose results were published last half term has provided valuable insights into impacting Parental Engagement. We will continue to use the findings of the survey to improve engagement particularly in parts of our community that have not previously been involved as well as improving communications. The committee on black pupil attainment has operated throughout the year and will operate in the new school year monitoring the performance of Black African and Caribbean pupils at the school and seeking to develop strategies to further increase achievement.

Rights Respecting School

This year saw the successful introduction of the Rights Respecting School agenda to Brookfield. Based on the United Convention of the Rights of the Child, this initiative introduces children to the notion of universal rights for everyone aged 18 or under, whatever their circumstances. Governors have worked alongside teachers to introduce class charters along the lines of the Convention and set up a steering committee comprising adults and pupils and to begin the journey to UNICEF accredited RRS status.

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 and we wish them all well with their careers. We also say a big farewell and thanks to governor David Snewin who has steps down from the governing body after an incredible fourteen years during which he has made an outstanding contribution to the school particularly as chair of our premises committee in recent years. We also say thanks to Melanie who has stepped down from her teacher governor role. The governors congratulate the PTA team Lucy, Mary, Rosy and Marie who have done a great job in the centenary year producing some fantastic and truly memorable events. Parents and carers are encouraged to get involved in the important and rewarding work of the PTA. Finally we would like to take this opportunity to say thanks to all staff, parents and carers whose energy and commitment make our Brookfield community so exceptional.

Oliver Lewis

Chair of Governors

govs@brookfield.camden.sch.uk

18 July 2014