

Brookfield Primary School

Governors' newsletter
Autumn term 2010



Welcome to our Autumn term newsletter. We hope you have enjoyed this term and that you are looking forward to the Christmas holidays. In this newsletter we have set out some information and news which we hope you will find interesting and useful.

SATs results 2009/10

- The school's SATs results for the academic year 2009/10 are set out below.

Key stage 1 results

	Reading level 2 and above	N A T I O N A L	Reading level 3	N A T I O N A L	Writing level 2 and above	N A T I O N A L	Writing level 3	N A T I O N A L	Maths level 2 and above	N A T I O N A L	Maths level 3	N A T I O N A L
2007/8	78%	84%	32%	25%	75%	81%	10%	12%	86%	90%	15%	21%
2008/9	94%	84%	47%	26%	91%	81%	17%	12%	94%	90%	23%	21%
2009/10	90%	85%	28%	26%	88%	81%	13%	12%	95%	89%	13%	20%

Notes:

- Attainment of children at level 2 (the national expectation) was broadly in line with last year and significantly higher than in 2007/2008.
- A change to the assessment system this year made it more difficult to attain level 3 standards.
- The Year 2 team received praise at their Local Authority moderation: 'Teacher's judgements are clearly very secure ... fantastic value added.'

Key Stage 2

	English level 4 and above	N A T I O N A L	English level 5	N A T I O N A L	Maths level 4 and above	N A T I O N A L	Maths level 5	N A T I O N A L
2007/8	91%	83%	40%	30%	82%	80%	25%	31%
2008/09	85%	80%	35%	29%	80%	79%	38%	34%
2009/10	85%	80%	46%	32%	80%	80%	37%	34%

Notes:

- *In 2010 children attained above national averages in English and in-line with national averages in maths.*
- *The English level 5 results exceeded the level for 2008 which was significantly above national average.*
- *For the fifth year running the difference between Brookfield and the national average for all subjects increased.*
- *For the first time Brookfield is above the national average in maths.*

Ways in which we intend to drive up standards

- Maintain the high standards for end of Year 2 results and improve end of Year 6 results, particularly in maths.
- The new Year 6 team is working hard at providing innovative ways of ensuring the pupils produce the best ever year 6 SATs results.
- Raise standards in writing – the literacy leader and other staff have taken part in training to focus on innovative ways of teaching sentence construction and story writing techniques across the school.
- Improve outcomes for children on the SEND register through the ‘achievement for all’ initiative – pupils are receiving one-to-one tuition and targeted support and we have employed a ‘positive play’ leader to work with them.
- The Curriculum Committee, which meets twice a term to discuss standards and achievement, will continue to monitor and evaluate the school’s performance.
- Governors plan to establish a sub-committee to support the school in the area of science.

The School’s Finances

The Finance Committee meets twice a term to review school finances and agree the school budget. The Government announced its plans for spending in October and information about what this will mean for Brookfield’s budget next year is now beginning to trickle down from the Local Authority. We will not have a clear view until March next year. Nonetheless we have started to look carefully at our costs and the services which we offer so that when we do present our budget to Camden we are confident that it will be approved. At this stage it seems inevitable that finance will be tight over the coming years so we are also looking at alternative sources of income for the school to access.

The school building and environment

The Premises Committee meets twice a term to discuss the school building and environment.

Tunnel Project

During the summer a building programme took place to provide a separate play area for Reception children. The work involved adapting the infant tunnel area, installing a low fence to mark off a separate area for the Reception children, the provision of a soft surface in this area and creation of a canopy over part of this space to provide cover during wet weather. The work took place during the summer holiday and was completed on time and to budget. This project fulfilled a need for a separate area for Reception identified in the previous year’s Ofsted report and School Improvement Plan. The Governors would particularly like to thank former governor Lucy Springett for her commitment and hard work without which the project could not have been completed. We would also like to express our thanks to former governor Ann Griffin for her expert advice.

Chester Balmore Estate Development

Camden Council intends to redevelop the Chester Balmore estate situated on the corner of Chester Road and Raydon Street opposite Highgate Library. The estate is to be demolished and rebuilt. The school has participated in consultations with the local community and will continue to liaise with the council in relation to health and safety issues surrounding the works which are expected to begin in 2011. The building contractors will have a member of staff that Brookfield can contact if any issues affecting the school arise. Full information about the project is available on the Camden website.

Road Crossing

The school has identified a need for a safe crossing to be installed near the junior playground entrance in Croftdown Road. The school is currently updating its travel plan to be submitted to Camden Council who will then assess road safety issues around the school.

ECO schools and sustainability

The Sustainability Group consisting of members of staff, governors and parents, discusses school green issues and meets once a term. Representatives from the School Council also contribute opinions and ideas. The group intends to set up workshops next year and anyone interested in becoming involved should contact Parent Governor Allison Rowe at:

govs@brookfield.camden.sch.uk

Attendance and Punctuality

This term the Governors undertook a thorough review of the attendance and punctuality policy of the school. The intention of the exercise was to ensure the policy accurately reflected the legal position and also to give assistance to teachers, staff and parents, particularly where requests for leave of absence are made to the school. The Governors set up a working party to look at the issue. The working party, which included parent governors as well as Community and LEA governors, was assisted by several submissions made by parents. The revised policy will be published in the near future.

Personnel and Wellbeing

The Personnel, Salaries and Wellbeing Committee meets twice a term, to discuss all matters to do with staffing and the wellbeing of all members of the school community, and reviews attendance of staff and pupils, pupil exclusions, any incidents of bullying, pupil behaviour, any safeguarding issues and staff training. A member of this committee normally sits on all interviewing panels for teacher appointments and advises the Headteacher on the staffing structure of the school. This committee is responsible for setting and reviewing a large number of policies. All policies are available in the school office.

Finally

The Governors are happy to welcome new parent governor onto the Governing Body. John is a Physics Professor at University College London and is committed to excellent science teaching at the school. We also welcome our new staff governor, acting Deputy Head Mark Unwin, as well as a new associate member, locally based environmental barrister Justine Thornton, onto the Governing Body. We say goodbye and thank you to Nicky Jones who steps down from her role as staff governor, and particularly to Lucy Springett who steps down as governor and vice chair of the Governing Body. Lucy has been an energetic and hard working governor who has contributed immensely to the school. We know Lucy will continue to contribute in other ways and the Governors would like to express gratitude to her for years of service! The Governors also want to congratulate and thank the PTA for their important work in contributing to both fundraising and to

the community spirit of the school. 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.

Best wishes

Governing Body
Brookfield Primary School

PS If you have any comments or suggestions Governors can be contacted by e-mail at govs@brookfield.camden.sch.uk or drop us a note.

December 2010