

Brookfield Primary School

Governors' Newsletter Summer Term 2011

govs@brookfield.camden.sch.uk



Welcome to our final newsletter of the year. We would like to congratulate the school and pupils on a successful school year. The Spring Sing concert, the Art Exhibition and writing week are among many memorable highlights. The governors would like particularly to thank the Headteacher and the teachers and staff without whose energy and dedication these successes would not be possible.

Brookfield governors

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 excellent new website.

The Governing Body met on 12 July 2011. Items up for discussion included the school's response to the cuts to nursery funding. The Headteacher also made a presentation to governors on the priorities for the School Improvement Plan for 2011/12. Governing Body minutes can be viewed online on the governors' page on the school website or you can ask to see a copy at reception.

Standards and curriculum

An important part of our job is to monitor and evaluate the school's performance and the curriculum committee meets twice a term with members of the senior leadership team to review targets and standards of achievement and attainment.

The curriculum committee, chaired by parent governor Jon Butterworth, has this term been examining and discussing the progress and attainment of pupils in each year group, as they do throughout the year. Most recently, the committee has looked at projected SATs results for Year 6 (the actual results will be released soon) and strategies to address any particular issues with certain cohorts of children. The Committee are pleased to note that provisional results show the school has successfully met one of its last Ofsted inspection targets, namely to raise the standards of attainment in Maths and Science at KS2 to those of English. The home-school agreement has been reviewed, and a new draft homework policy resulting from the recent consultation was also reviewed. Three subject visits, in Languages, Literacy and Maths have taken place over the past month, with members of the committee attending. These were very informative and we would like to thank teachers for accommodating governors during the visits.

Finance

The finance committee, chaired by joint vice-chair community governor Joanna Whittington, meets twice a term to look at the school's income and expenditure and authorises major expenditure. The budget for the school for the next financial year was signed off by a meeting of the full Governing Body in March and notified to Camden in May.

Camden recently carried out an audit of the controls surrounding all key financial areas in the school in March. The Finance Committee has been discussing the most effective way of addressing the limited number of issues raised. We were pleased that the final report showed that they had substantial assurance in our systems.

We are happy that during this financial year the school will remain able to deliver the same level of service and range of activities which children and parents at Brookfield currently enjoy. Nonetheless there are many changes which may take place next year which could have financial implications for the school and which we are keeping a close eye on. Significantly we expect that Camden will no longer fund full time nursery places for all three year olds in Camden from September 2012. The local authority is currently consulting on how nursery funding will be allocated and we expect a decision to be made before the end of this school year.

The school building and environment

The Premises Committee, chaired by community Governor David Snewin, meets twice a term to discuss the school building and environment. During the summer holidays a refurbishment programme will be carried out to the exterior of the school building. The programme will include overhauling all the windows so that they fit tightly, with weather strips added to keep out draughts. The windows in the third floor gym are to be replaced with double glazing and additional insulation will be installed within the flat roof. The school roof will be checked over and any necessary

repairs made, faulty flashings replaced and chimneys re-pointed. The work will continue into the autumn term and careful planning is taking place to avoid any unnecessary disruption to school life. The committee have been investigating the possibility of installing PV solar panels whilst scaffolding is in place around the building and are looking at funding options.

Also planned this summer is an upgrade to the nursery utility room which will improve the storage and support facilities available to the nursery staff. During the summer half term holiday a new telephone system was installed. The system has a number of services to improve communications with parents and allow more efficient use of the office staff's time.

Personnel and wellbeing

The personnel, salaries and wellbeing (PSWB) committee, chaired by joint vice-chair of governors Helen Martyn, meets twice termly and reviews staff recruitment and resignations and has responsibility for advising the headteacher on all matters relating to the staffing of the school. The committee monitors pupil and staff attendance, exclusions, incidents of bullying and behaviour generally in addition to any matters in relation to the wellbeing of all members of the Brookfield community.

This committee is involved in the appointment process of teaching and some support staff. New teachers Emma and Barnaby have recently been appointed, and Faye, Lisa, Sarah and Lucy will be joining the support staff. We hope to appoint one more teacher before the end of term.

Congratulations to the PTA

The governors would like to extend warm congratulations and thanks to the PTA team and all parents and carers involved with another successful year of fund raising events including the recent terrific summer carnival.

We would like to thank the PTA for contributing so significantly to the community life of the school and we look forward to working fruitfully with them again next year.

Finally.....goodbye

We will be saying goodbye to several teachers and support staff at the end of term. Goodbye to Mark U, Nicky, Dean, Kiran, Bryony, Emily, Ann, Katie and Jenny, and a very special goodbye to Trudy, who has been at Brookfield for more than 12 years. We are sure you will all join us in saying a big thank you to them all and in wishing them good luck in the future.

It is that time of year when the school must also say goodbye to the year 6 children. We wish all those leaving Brookfield every success in the future.

There are challenges and changes ahead and the governors will be working hard with the school next year to meet them. In the meantime we would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for the unlimited commitment of the staff, parents and the PTA which makes our Brookfield community so exceptional.

Best wishes

Governing Body
Brookfield Primary School

If you have any comments or suggestions we can be contacted by e-mail at the address below 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. If you are interested please contact one of us to find out more about the role or email us at the address above.