



BROOKFIELD SCHOOL

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Thursday 9th January 2020

Dear Parents and carers,

I am writing to share some bittersweet news with you. At February half term, I will be leaving Brookfield to pursue further national work, working with the National Association of Special Education Needs (nasen) to develop provision for children with SEND across England. I appreciate that this is likely surprising news; please know that this was a very difficult and personal decision for me. In July 2018, I was appointed Regional SEND Leader for South Central England and Northwest London one day per week. Since that time, further opportunities have arisen, and this academic year I have taken on increased national work, leading a research project for the Education Endowment Foundation across 160 secondary schools. From February, I will work full time in a consultancy role, training headteachers and special education coordinators and supporting schools in developing their SEND provision across England with nasen. With my change in role, I will also be able to dedicate more time to develop my private work, advocating for parents and carers of children with SEND, something that I have been undertaking on a voluntary basis over the past six years.

I am sad to be leaving Brookfield – I have thoroughly enjoyed the past four years. I will miss the children, the staff and the community. I am proud of how provision with children with SEND has developed at Brookfield, with an Educational Psychologist noting in a recent report ‘School staff at Brookfield have a strong inclusive, nurturing ethos’. I have every confidence that this will continue. Over the coming weeks, Laurel (headteacher) will recruit a full time SENDCo. Whilst recruitment is underway, Laurel will be overseeing SEND provision, supported by Laura Smale (Deputy SENDCo) and the leadership team. If you have any concerns or questions please feel free to get in touch with Laurel at admin@brookfield.camden.sch.uk or through the office.

Before I leave, I will hold Spring Planning Meetings for all parents of children with SEND. I will send out letters next week with further details on how parents can arrange a meeting with myself and their child’s class teacher. I look forward to seeing you all over the coming weeks.

Kind regards,

Katherine Walsh