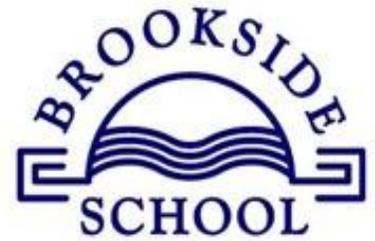


Governors' News



Welcome

It's time for this term's edition of the Brookside Governor Newsletter!

Well it finally looks as though Spring has sprung, in amongst the odd snow burst! We are proud of the fact that school has stayed open throughout, and although the children may not have appreciated it, we are grateful to you for your efforts in getting them here!

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Governor Vacancy Update

We are very pleased with the response we have received from the last Newsletter, in which we appealed for new Governors. We have co-opted an ex-Governor, Jason Billin, who has rejoined us after many years away and we are excited to welcome him back. We also received interest from two of our parents and one of those is being co-opted too.

Since we advertised, another vacancy for a Parent Governor has become available. A letter will be sent out by Mr Kenny after Easter and we will be seeking nominations for parents to put themselves forward for election by the parent body.

There is no difference between the different Governor roles, except titles. Co-opted and Parent Governors have an equal level of input and voting rights but we are required to have two Parent Governor representatives.

Please contact Mr Kenny if you would like to know more about joining us and what is involved.

Meet the Governors

The Governing Body is made up of a group of volunteers which include parents, staff and members of the community. Governors are chosen according to the skills and experience they have to offer.



Anne Brammall
Finance
Co-opted Governor



Reesha Armstead
Chair
Local Authority
Governor



Gary Kenny
Headteacher
Staff Governor



Rebecca Wood
Vice Chair
Co-opted Governor



Andy Beharall
Staff Governor



Sarah Evans
Co-opted Governor



Helga Peatman
Co-opted Governor



Jennifer Pulkkinen
Co-opted Governor



Kelly Clarke
Co-opted Governor



Tim Green
Parent Governor



Mike Clark
Co-opted Governor



Jason Billin
Co-opted Governor



Phil Doherty
Associate Governor

Introducing Our Finance and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Governor

I have a daughter currently in Year 6 at Brookside. I became a Governor in 2012 and was Chair of the Finance, General Purposes and Personnel Sub-Committee from 2014 until the restructuring of the Governing Body in 2016. In my role as Finance Link Governor, I retain an interest in the financial governance of the school. I am also the Link Governor for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). In addition to these roles, I also participate in smaller working parties: Ofsted Readiness, Strategic Vision and Fundraising.

I love being the SEND Link Governor as it ties in with my work at a special needs college in Loughborough as a Learning Support Assistant for young adults with visual impairment and/or learning difficulties. The Governing Body has collective responsibility for ensuring the ongoing achievement and success of SEND pupils. The SEND Link Governor supports the SENCO and should understand how staffing and resources impact on progress and attainment. To keep up to date with changes in government policy and new developments in SEND, the local authority offers training workshops to Link Governors. I meet with Zoe Poppleton, Brookside's SENCO, twice a year to review the performance of SEND pupils and discuss interventions used to improve attainment in literacy and numeracy. A progress report is fed back to the Governing Body.

The Governing Body is also accountable for the efficient financial management of the school through monitoring expenditure and ensuring this is linked to school improvement. The school budget covers many costs, including salaries and pensions, IT equipment, books and buildings maintenance. As Finance Link Governor, I meet with Mrs Brown, our School Business Manager, and an external financial consultant twice a year to review the school budget which is based mainly on pupil numbers and Pupil Premium. This is fed back at full Governing Body meetings, as the budget must be approved by the whole Governing Body.

In these times of financial constraint, the Governing Body has set up a fundraising committee to source funding from sources outside the local authority. Last year we successfully won a bid for funding to revamp the wildlife area for the children to enjoy.

Anne Brammall

Improving Road Safety

We are very pleased that we have been allocated a crossing patrol warden (or lollipop lady) again, to ensure the safety of our pupils and parents when walking to school. This has long been a concern for the school and has led to a brand new initiative called the Happy Crocodile.



Firstly, may I say a big thank you to all who participated in the recent travel survey – we got a whopping 100 replies! A fantastic response, and we think a strong message about parents' concern about traffic congestion around school. We set up The Happy Crocodile because we wanted to do something about it – this problem is not unique to Brookside, but challenges almost every primary school in the country. We did some research on the adverse effects of the school run – in terms of health, injuries, lost productivity and pollution. We also investigated walking school buses and discovered that they have varying degrees of success. We used our findings and your survey results to come up with an idea for a 'toolkit' that any school can pick up and use to set up a successful walking bus scheme.

This will include a secure intuitive app for booking/tracking your child on the 'bus', incentive schemes to retain volunteers and succession planning to recruit new volunteers.

We pitched the idea to a national innovation competition themed around 'Greener, Smarter Communities'. The judging panel recognised the problem and the potential impact of a successful solution and have awarded us seed funding to develop the idea. The next step is to collect further information from our school community so that we can identify distances and directions from school and measure the impact of reducing cars around school. We hope to get another excellent response, and please be assured all data will be anonymous and we will use nothing without your permission. This will lead to a small pilot scheme in the summer hopefully, before a full launch after development of an app.

Anne Brammall

***Yet another excellent example of one of our Governors
working for the good of our school!***

Whilst this Spring Term has been relatively short, the Summer Term is set to be a long one. Here's to a good rest over Easter for our children, and fun times for all!

