

Brookside Newsletter

Dear Parents,

25th July 2018

I write to you at the end of a really busy but successful year here at Brookside. It is with pride that I am able to reflect back on the personal growth and dedication to learning that has been evident in every classroom within the school. A long, exhausting summer term, characterised by a Mediterranean-style heatwave, means the children are ready and deserving of their summer break. Stay safe in the sun!

Good bye & farewell...

...to our wonderful group of Year 6 children. The majority of these children joined us as four year olds in the reception class, others joined along the way to further strengthen this community of pupils. They have been a pleasure to work with and a joy to teach along the way. At Brookside, we are immensely proud of all of their achievements as individuals and as a collective. Their SATs results were terrific! We wish all of the class of 2018 the very best in the future as they journey towards the next steps in their school lives. We know that they will carry the best of Brookside and the values that they have embodied onwards with them. Hoorah! - for the children of Brookside Year 6 – 2017/18.



Brookside Year 6 (2017-18) during earlier days – Nativity 2012. And during a recent 'brook splash'.



Sustainable Plastics

During Recent weeks and months, the children have taken an active interest in recycling, reusing and, definitely, reducing plastic waste. Our concern regarding plastic was kick started by David Attenborough's Blue Planet. Children throughout the school have become advocates of a more sustainable and responsible attitude towards plastic. Each class has in turn taken the opportunity to present discoveries and advice on how to adopt responsible attitudes towards plastic.

Our hope and expectation is that the children will carry forward their concerns and understanding of our relationship with plastic into their later years and continue to be the influencers and agitators for a sustainable future.



An ocean wave recreated by the children in Year 6 from plastic litter and single-use plastic



School Reports & Parent Questionnaire

I hope you were all able to feel a great sense of pride with the end of year school report your child received.

Thank you for the responses to the parents’ questions. The results data is very useful to us while the remarks concerning things the school does well and things that will make it even better will be very useful for the school’s senior leadership team to pore over. We had almost fifty responses; the headlines read as follows:

	Agree or strongly agree
My child is happy at school	100%
My child is making good progress	100%
Teaching is good	100%
The school has high expectations of pupil behaviour	100%
The school provides sufficient opportunity for consultation on my child’s progress	96%
I feel I will be listened to when approaching the school with questions or if I have an issue	96%
The school is led and managed well	98%
The staff suggest activities or set homework for my child	96%

As stated, the comments section will be pored over in work days to come, but a hope that Brookside is able to maintain its community ethos despite the pressures of an expanding village was recognised by more than a few.

Governor membership

We recently held governor elections and had the chance to co-opt a new member to the school's governing body. I'm pleased to be able to welcome Mrs Amy Longworth and Mrs Stephanie Hobbs to the team. Amy is the parent to two of our children, one in our current Y6 and one in our current Y3. Stephanie is also a parent to two of our children, one in our current Y2 and one in our current YF.

The governing body also says goodbye to Mrs Rebecca Wood. Rebecca has been a dedicated servant to the entirety of our school and its community as a governor for over six years. She has supported our school, our staff and, most importantly, the outcomes for our pupils throughout this time.

Rebecca was instrumental in supporting our school in making the transition to teaching German to our Y3-Y6 pupils – something which I'm very proud of as one of our USPs (areas of uniqueness), as I don't know of any other Nottinghamshire primary school that teaches German. Vielen Dank Rebecca (many thanks).

Academisation & Equals Trust

You will remember that a consultation phase occurred during May and into June following the governors' recommendation that the school becomes an academy by joining Equals Trust. Thank you for all of your inputs. The school's staff was also consulted on its views. A report on the consultation process and the decision the governing body then took to proceed with the academy conversion is available on the school's website under the Parents-Newsletters section. The actual date of our conversion is due towards the end of this calendar year or early in to the next one.

Sports Day, Sports Week & the School Games Gold Standard award.

We had a terrific Sports Day & Sports Week. Thank you for such a supportive turn-out. The school teams proved really successful and will be a feature we develop as school houses during the next school year.

Celebration! The school has achieved the School Games Gold Standard award. This follows on from achieving silver last year. Our children have been active participants in so many sporting and active events throughout the year, whether that be in sporting competitions or personal engagement (such as charity fun runs, duathlons, yoga and street dance). Our older pupils have led and encouraged further participation in their roles as Sports Leaders – they've been brilliant! Mr Lead has lead the school and our children towards these achievements – he's been pretty great too! Further news regarding sports at Brookside is contained within the Sports Newsletter (attached).

Health & Safety Audit

The school experienced its triennial H&S audit the week before last. It was very successful as we achieved a score of 1 (1 is the highest – it's like an A in an exam). The auditors said, 'standards were very high and documentation was very well maintained ... Health and Safety is a high priority at the school and findings demonstrate the high level of work, time and effort given to maintain the management system'. This is, of course, very pleasing and reflects the efforts that Mrs Roberts, and the work of the governors, puts into this aspect of the school.

During the recent past, we successfully conducted an off-site evacuation by safely transferring all of the school's children to the village hall. Yesterday, we successfully staged a 'school lock down' whereby, with quick notification, all children are brought to a safe internal space, registers are called while windows, doors and shutters are closed and drawn. The drill occurred efficiently and without fuss. The school also has a routine of fire drills which take the form of a quiet and organised evacuation of the school building.

100% attendance!

Nineteen of our pupils attained an attendance of 100% during the school year 2017-18. A magnificent achievement from this group of pupils from Foundation through to the Year 6 class. Well done to Arthur, Maisie, Jessica, Chloe, Chloe, Mikey, Katie, Noah, Rose, Emma, Finlay, Aaron, Lucy, Maisie, Oscar, Eleanor, Emily, Hector & Harry. 100%!

The Woodland Trust's Green Tree Schools' Award



Continuing the theme of sustainability, as mentioned above, the children in Key Stage 1 successfully worked towards achieving the silver Green Tree award. They achieved this by working within and supporting the variety of habitats that exist in our school grounds – we have a pond, woodlands, hedgerows and stand-alone trees. Onwards towards gold next year.

Building Works

Works continue on our three new classrooms for September. I'm told everything is on schedule. Fingers are crossed in anticipation of an August, 31st handover.

...and finally,

Have a wonderful summer break with the children. I look forward to seeing everyone back – revitalised & ready – in September.

Gary Kenny (Head Teacher)

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Part of a display of work our children contributed to the library and to the Health Centre celebrating 70 years of the NHS