

Governors' News



Welcome

Here's the latest edition of Governors' News and it seems unbelievable that another school year has come to an end already!

The summer sunshine has been wonderful although, we appreciate, very hot for the children to have to work in. We do hope it continues on into the holidays so that they can now enjoy some outdoor fun!

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Your Governors Thank You!

It has been another very successful school year for Brookside and, as always, our Governors, staff and children alike have been working extremely hard for our school.

We are thrilled, yet again, with a great set of SATs results and would like to congratulate the children for doing us proud, as well as Mr Kenny and our wonderful teaching team for supporting and guiding them through what can be a difficult and stressful time.

Big thanks as well to the BFG for all their hard work in raising much needed funds for our school which the children benefit so much from. Particularly memorable this term was the first Outdoor Cinema showing The Greatest Showman on a beautiful sunny evening in May. It was fabulous to see so many people there, both from the school and the local community, filling the school field, enjoying live entertainment which included our fabulous school choir, as well as the excellent film. We are so grateful for your support.

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 and his term, we welcomed Stacey Fitzsimmons who has joined us as a Co-opted Governor.



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



Stacey Fitzsimmons
Co-opted Governor



Phil Doherty
Associate Governor

Embracing Change

Much of the focus for the Governors this year has been about preparing for changes ahead. Change is inevitable for any school in the current educational climate and at the heart of all our decisions is to do what is best for the pupils at Brookside.

School Expansion

It is impossible not to notice the works that are going on to the back of the school, the second phase of our expansion with the building of three new classrooms. This is the result of several years of discussions and countless meetings between Mr Kenny, our Governor Working Party on Brookside Development and Nottinghamshire County Council to bring about the much needed increase in school places within East Leake. We are pleased that progress is being made and we look forward to seeing our shiny new classrooms in September!

Becoming an Academy

Over a year ago, the school was invited to join Equals Trust and convert to academy status. This is a local Multi Academy Trust consisting of nine local primary schools, most of which Brookside already work alongside in a collaborative way.

A huge amount of thought and deliberation by the Governors has gone into the decision as initially, there were mixed feelings: many were dubious about the whole concept of academisation, some were immediately enthusiastic about the possibilities but collectively we were all determined that Brookside must retain its identity and the school's ethos which we all hold so dear. Ultimately, our final decision on whether or not to go ahead would be based on the positive impact for pupils, taking into account the views of all stakeholders.

The period of undertaking due diligence, to ensure that Equals Trust is the right fit for us, has been long and incredibly thorough and as time has passed, we have become more convinced that this is a fantastic opportunity for us. We are grateful to those of you who took part in the consultation process and gave your input and are very pleased and reassured by the amount of support received. The Governing Body have taken the decision to move forward and convert to an academy with Equals Trust and whilst there is still a great deal of work to be done, we are very excited for what lies ahead. Please be assured that Brookside will continue to be the Brookside that we all know and love, but with a bright future!

Reflections from a Chair

I was absolutely delighted to receive the East Midlands Award for Effective Governance for an Individual Governor this year and would like to thank Governor Services and my colleagues on the Governing Body for putting me forward. It was totally unexpected and completely overwhelming!

Such an accolade is very humbling and makes you wonder, “why me?”! I have been a Governor for over eight years and have seen enormous changes in our role and our responsibilities are ever increasing. As a strong believer in the value of education and the opportunities it brings, I love being able to contribute to shaping the lives of children. I see this as a huge privilege and thoroughly enjoy serving the school community alongside my fellow Governors.

My involvement with Brookside actually stretches back to 2005 when my eldest daughter started and my youngest also spent her primary years here. As a family, we look back at their time at the school with many fond memories of watching their learning develop, enjoying school performances, oh and becoming infamous for always coming last in the Mum’s Race in my wheelchair on Sports Day! These days, of course, we can take pleasure in also seeing them embarrassed by old school photographs!

I know that our Year 6s will now be moving on and we wish them the very best for their future and much happiness. I hope they had fun at their recent prom, as did my youngest who is now 16 and has just left secondary school. It’s the end of an era for us parents whenever they move on and we have to enjoy each stage that our children pass through.

It’s strange to think that I no longer have children who are at school; no more uniforms to buy, no more dinner money to remember, no more school holidays to revolve our lives around.

... Oh wait, I’m still at school, aren’t I?!

Reesha Armstead

Have a good
Summer!