

Hello from the Governors

Welcome back, everyone! We hope you had a wonderful Easter break! Our apologies that this newsletter was not sent out at the end of last term.

It was another very busy one in school with focus on continuing to improve our curriculum and to prepare children for upcoming tests, the very exciting introduction of Opal Play, which is proving to be a huge success with lots of very creative playground fun, the further development of our very own Forest School outdoor classroom and other events including a fabulous production of The Greatest Showman by Years 3 and 4.

And now we look forward to the Summer Term and, hopefully, better and brighter weather to enjoy!

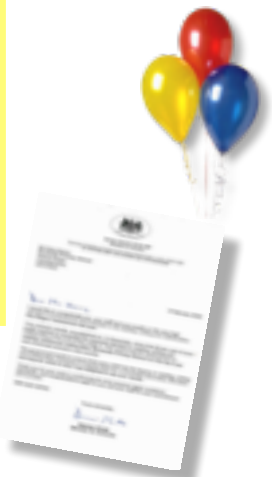
Brookside In Top 2%!

In the last Governor News, we reported that following last year's national test results, Brookside's performance placed us in the top 5% of primary schools. Imagine how thrilled we were when in February, Mr Kenny received a letter from Damian Hinds, Minister for Schools. He congratulated staff and pupils:

"on the very high standard of achievement demonstrated in the reading, writing and mathematics Key Stage 2 assessment last year.

... Brookside Primary School is in the top 2 per cent of primary schools in the country".

We continually strive to improve our curriculum and to enable the best possible outcomes for our children and it is wonderful to know that our success, which comes from both staff and pupils, is receiving the recognition that Brookside deserves.



Meet the Governors

We are a group of volunteers made up of staff, parents and members of the local community.



Reesha Armstead
Chair
Trust Governor



Gary Kenny
Headteacher
Staff Governor



Jason Billin
Vice Chair
Trust Governor



Andy Beharall
Staff Governor



Sarah Evans
Staff Governor



Stephanie Hobbs
Trust Governor



Tim Green
Parent Governor



Stuart Saunders
Trust Governor



Will Birch
Trust Governor



Helen Stevenson
Parent Governor



Vanessa Bailey
Parent Governor

News Update

Getting Social

Brookside has had a long standing presence on Twitter / X and it's always been great to see posts and photos of what's going on in school, along with day trips and appearances at local events.

In more recent times, we have extended our reach to Facebook and Instagram and this is proving to be a huge success. Along with recent Open Days held for prospective parents and pupils, the number of families citing Brookside as their first preference for this year has seen a significant increase.

All the posts of the children happily learning and being creative and staff having fun too, are so engaging and this is all thanks to Mrs Evans (Staff Governor). As stated in the minutes of our first Spring Term Governors' Meeting, "the drive to showcase the school has been spectacularly successful". Keep up the good work!



BECOME A PARENT GOVERNOR AT BROOKSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL!

We are holding an election for Parent Governors

- ★ *Exciting things happen for children at Brookside and we are committed to helping them reach their full potential* ★
- ★ *Governors are accountable for overseeing the development and smooth running of the school* ★
- ★ *We work as volunteers and make a huge contribution to Brookside's continued success* ★
- ★ *No experience is necessary and comprehensive induction and training is provided* ★

Knowledge or experience in finance and fundraising is always useful to us



News Update

Look Out! Children At Play!

I visited school for a meeting one day last term and afterwards, as it was playtime, Mr Kenny offered take me around the playground to see OPAL Play in action.

I could instantly feel the buzz, hear the laughter and see a hive of activity all around us! There was a group of girls building a den using bed sheets and tying them to a tree; two boys, one young and one older, enjoying playing with some lego; children dressed up in all sorts of costumes; there were two boys pushing another boy in a buggy who was pretending to be a baby; children on scooters flying around all over the place; a child being pulled along in a suitcase; a group of children playing at a water station, figuring out how to get it to flow the right way; a girl in a long cardboard box made into a bed with blankets, lying there watching the world go by. And when we got back to where we'd started, that there den was triple the size!



It really was so exciting and impressive. I didn't see one child who wasn't engaged in some sort of activity, even if they were sat quietly reading a book or doing a jigsaw puzzle. There could not possibly be any space for boredom, and what was most striking was the way that children of all ages and across all year groups were playing together.

I spoke to one of the midday Play Leaders and was pleased to hear that playground disputes seem to be mostly a thing of the past, the number of accidents has vastly reduced and Mr Kenny reported that focus and concentration in the classroom is markedly improved.



I know that there are plans to develop things further, and along with our Forest School classroom space, our children can enjoy plenty of time playing and learning outdoors. This has all been made possible through a huge amount of work by Mrs Clark, Mrs Evans, Mrs Wood and the OPAL Play Working Group, the Play Leaders, our incredible parents and the local community through donating 'stuff' for the children to play with and / or offering time and commitment in helping to fetch, carry, move, dig, build and so on. Your efforts truly are amazing and very much appreciated.

And remember, we always need more 'stuff'!

Reesha Armstead ~ Chair of Governors

Finally...

The Summer Term always seems a long one but there's plenty on the horizon.

We look forward to celebrating further successes, with lots of hard work and fun along the way!

Thank you again for all your support and huge appreciation to our staff, children and the wider community for keeping Brookside special!

