

Hello from the Governors

Another year has surreptitiously slipped by here at Brookside and the summer holidays are suddenly upon us again. It's been hugely successful in so many ways and packed full of fun for all.

In this term's Governor News, we will be celebrating our achievements, introducing Hedgehog Highways and saying some fond farewells.

Working hard, playing hard!

Firstly, we send our congratulations to all the children who have sat various tests this term, including SATs, Phonics and Multiplication Checks. Our strong set of results continue to put Brookside well above the national average, which makes all the hard work worthwhile.

There have been many sporting achievements throughout the year as well as some very fine performances in terms of shows by different years groups and our infamous choir representing the school at various local events.

We are thrilled with the enormous and ongoing success of the establishment of Opal Play and it was lovely to see so many parents and families coming to play at our Open Afternoon on 17th July. Seeing the joy and laughter on everyone's faces was very special and we are extremely grateful to everyone who has helped and contributed in every way to transforming playtimes for our children.



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
Trust Governor



Stuart Saunders
Trust Governor



Will Birch
Trust Governor



Helen Stevenson
Parent Governor



Vanessa Bailey
Parent Governor

News Update

Policies

Our extensive list of school policies form the basis for all aspects of running the school and there are also those from Equals Trust that we must work to. They are based on legislation from the government and guidance from the Department for Education. Some of our policies are statutory, in that all schools must have them in place, and others are non-statutory but equally as important. A number of them also have to be available to the wider community and can be found on the school website.

Governors are responsible for ensuring, not only that our policies are adhered to, but also that they are regularly reviewed, updated and ratified. We have a schedule for this but owing to the ever increasing responsibilities and workload being placed on Governors, we have been discussing ways in which we can streamline the process. A Working Group will be established next term, responsible for reviewing non-statutory policies in order that the Full Governing Body can focus on statutory ones.



Monitoring Focus

Another of our main duties is to monitor every aspect of the running of the school. The summer term focuses on Child Protection, School Improvement and Lifestyle Choices, which includes school attendance, equality objectives, opportunities relating to participation in sport, British Values and collective worship and teaching around Personal, Social, Health and Economic education. Governors meet with relevant members of staff and are expected to provide constructive challenge and rigorous scrutiny and report their findings to Equals Trust.

Governor Resignations



Stephanie Hobbs has made the difficult decision to resign as a governor after five years, as has Stuart Saunders once we have found his replacement. We will be sad to lose them both and are hugely grateful for the time, commitment and invaluable contributions that they have given to Brookside.

We will be looking to fill governor vacancies next term so please let us know if you are interested in joining us!

Awards Flood In!

We are incredibly proud of all the achievements reached by our children and the efforts made by the staff to ensure that Brookside is the best school it can be and in managing to gain prestigious recognition for our efforts, time and again.

United Against Bullying

We constantly promote positive pupil behaviour and anti-bullying and are delighted that in the spring term, we received the Anti Bullying Association's United Against Bullying Silver Accreditation. This was a whole school programme which "supported schools to reduce bullying and improve the wellbeing of all children, focusing on those most at risk".



Eco Schools Green Flag Award

Eco-Schools guides and empowers millions of young people each year "to deliver eco-projects that make their school more sustainable, increase environmental learning, and benefit their local community". For many years, Brookside has been highly invested in its commitment to eco friendly projects and are very happy to have received this award.

School Games Platinum Mark Award

The School Games Mark is a government led scheme, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust, which rewards schools for their commitment in developing competition both within their school and into the wider community. We are delighted to have been recognised for our success in cricket, girls and boys football, tennis, ice skating, Drumba and of course, Ultimate Frisbee, and to have received the School Games

Platinum Mark Award for 2023-24! A special thanks goes to Mr Lead who puts a huge amount of energy into opening so many opportunities for sports participation and to all our staff and parents for their unwavering support!



Musiquest 2024

With the support of Mrs Stevenson, Year 5 and 6 have placed Brookside Primary School at the top of the Nottinghamshire Schools Leader Board for completing a 4 week Musiquest Challenge. The programme allowed the children to explore a range of musical concepts and you never know, we may produce some budding composers and performers in the future!

Reesha Armstead - Chair of Governors

And Last But Not Least...

Framework Young Supporters Award

I had the privilege of accompanying my children to represent Brookside at the Framework Awards Evening a few weeks ago. Framework is a charity delivering housing, health, employment, support and care services to people with a diverse range of needs. Every year Framework supports over 18,000 homeless, vulnerable and excluded people across Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Lincolnshire, North and East Lincolnshire and Sheffield.



Children at Brookside Primary School, longstanding committed supporters of Framework, have taken part in various initiatives, including collecting Christmas gifts for Framework's housing service for homeless families, participating in a school-wide Sleep Out on the playground and raising money through sponsorship. They were very happy to receive the Young Supporters Award again this year!

The children behaved fantastically at the Awards Evening, and I couldn't have been prouder of all the work the staff and children do for this wonderful charity on an annual basis. It was wonderful to see Brookside acknowledged by the organisation, and also all the other individuals and organisations who also do so much.

Vanessa Bailey (Governor)

On the Hedgehog Highway

Did you know that here in the UK, Hedgehogs are now listed as Vulnerable to Extinction?

We are fortunate to have several regular Hedgehog visitors around our playing field and woodland area here at Brookside Primary School. We think it's important to give our prickly friends all the help we can to survive and flourish.

Over the past few months, our very own Mrs Brammall has been seen setting up a Trail Camera around the school grounds to capture their nocturnal wanderings, with success. Several Hogs have been caught on camera – hopefully we can share videos via the school website...



Hedgehogs are nocturnal and can travel around a mile each night in search of food and shelter so, in order to give our spikey friends room to roam, we will be creating a series of Hedgehog Highways Holes around our perimeters.

As a Borough Councillor for East Leake, I have teamed up with East Leake Hedgehog Highways and used some of my Community Grant allocation to fund metal templates, which will be used to create frames for fence openings.



In the coming weeks and months we will be knocking on our neighbours' doors asking if they will create an opening on their side of the fences and allow the Hedgehogs to roam freely – creating true Hedgehog Highways.

If you would like to get involved, or are interested in having a Hedgehog Highways Hole frame, let me know via email - jbillin@brookside.notts.sch.uk.

In the meantime, there are many ways you can help your local Hedgehogs (see over the page), but please remember not to put out milk for them as this is harmful to Hedgehogs...

For more information, visit www.hedgehogstreet.org

Jason Billing - Vice Chair of Governors

Top 10 tips to make your garden hedgehog-friendly

1. Link your garden with Hedgehog Highways
2. Make your pond safe with a ramp
3. Create a wild corner
4. Deal with netting and litter
5. Put out food and water
6. Stop using chemicals
7. Check before strimming
8. Be careful with bonfires
9. Make a home for hedgehogs
10. Become a Hedgehog Champion

Finally...

The hardest part about the end of a school year is having to say farewell to those who are leaving us. We have thoroughly enjoyed watching our Year 6s grow from little tots to where they are now and we are enormously proud of all that they have achieved during their time with us. We all wish them the best of luck as they move on to secondary school and hope they will fly high towards the bright futures that await them!

A few of our staff are leaving for pastures new too. Matt Kerr (Y3/4 Teacher) is leaving to go and teach in Dubai, Rachel Goldby (Y1/2 Teacher) is going home to Northern Ireland and Kate Hodgkin (Y5/6 Teaching Assistant), who has been with us for many years, is leaving us too. Ria Moore (KS2 Teacher) is also already on maternity leave. We send all good wishes to all of them and are grateful for everything they have contributed to Brookside!

The governors, as always, would like to thank the rest of our staff team for all that they continue to do for our children and our school. Appreciation goes to Equals Trust for their ongoing support. Thanks to you, our parents, carers and the wider community who give so much. But the biggest 'thank you' of all has to go to the ones at the centre of our world, our incredible children!

