



Governor News

Spring 2025

Hello from the Governors

Welcome everyone, to the Spring Governor News as we head into what will hopefully be two weeks of sunny Easter Holidays!

As always, our children have been working very hard, particularly those who are preparing for SATs in May. Despite this, there is always so much going on here at Brookside with the ever present Golden Wellie Awards, sporting competitions the use of OPAL Play as an energetic, imaginative and creative outlet during downtime, and making valuable contributions to the work of Framework. Interactive lessons have taken place around the Ancient Greeks and The Tudors and, further afield, there have been trips to the Space Centre and Cadbury World.

This week, we saw the wonderful World of Willy Wonka recreated in school with a fantabulous and fantastical performance of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. We were hugely entertained by Years 3 and 4 with their brilliant singing and dancing which brought the story to life, along with their amazing costumes! Many congratulations to everyone involved!

We are very pleased to have welcomed Stuart Adey to the Governing Body this term. His experience is going to be a great asset to our work and you can find out more below.



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



Tim Green
Trust Governor



Lewis James
Trust Governor



Helen Stevenson
Parent Governor



Vanessa Bailey
Parent Governor



Stuart Adey
Parent Governor

Governor Update

Introducing Stuart Adey



I am delighted to have joined the Governing Body at Brookside School as a Parent Governor. It is an exciting place to be where success is celebrated and shared and the school is never standing still. I've received a warm welcome from my fellow governors and been brought up to speed on many of the exciting things which are going on at school.

I live in East Leake with my wife and four young children. My oldest child is in Year One at Brookside and the others will follow in her footsteps when the time comes. I feel very fortunate to have such an excellent school on our doorstep. My daughter speaks extremely highly about Brookside and the sense of belonging which she has is really important to me.

I have worked in primary education for around twenty years now. I am currently Assistant Head Teacher at a primary and nursery school in Bulwell in Nottingham. I have well over a decade's experience at a senior leader. I have worked in The London Borough of Redbridge, Coalville, Markfield and Nottingham in a wide range of schools with very different challenges and characteristics. As part of my work, I have visited a number of schools and carried out external reviews, highlighting what the school does well and where it could improve.

When I heard that Brookside were looking for a Parent Governor, I was keen to get involved. I hope to be able to utilise my experience to support the school in continuing the great work which is already happening and find ways to improve. I'm particularly interested in how the school can maintain excellent academic standards from a wide range of starting points whilst also finding time to develop the whole child.

I am really looking forward to supporting, challenging and championing the school in order to ensure that we keep moving forward for the good of the children, staff, parents and wider East Leake community.

The Search Goes On...

We still have vacancies for two Trust Governors to join us. Governors don't have to have been connected with Brookside and nor do they need any prior experience within education, however, many skills from the world of work are more transferrable than you might think! All new Governors receive a full induction and training and will be supported by a mentor. Meetings take place twice per term, once via Zoom and once in school.

If you are interested, or know anyone who might be, please contact Mr Kenny.

Governor Update

Our last Newsletter shared information about the importance of school attendance. Although Brookside's attendance figures have always been significantly above the national average, with a great deal of support provided by the school to families where children struggle to be in school, governors are pleased to see a continued positive increase in attendance.

We are hugely grateful to our parents and members of our community who freely give their time and energy to get involved, help around school and contribute to providing enrichment opportunities to our children. This term, one of our parents, Jackie Green, approached the school and volunteered to run a Netball Club for Year 5 and 6 children. The BEE Netball programme of coaching developed by England Netball focuses on inclusivity, teamwork and building confidence through learning that is fun. There has been a huge amount of interest and we have no doubt that this will be a huge success!



The CEO of Equals Trust is retiring at the end of the summer term. The recruitment process for his successor has been completed and Jenny Cooke, Executive Head of Cropwell Bishop Primary School and Burton Joyce Primary School, has been successfully appointed. We look forward to meeting and working with her.

Termly Focus

We are required to complete Nottingham County Council's Safeguarding Audit and the Child Protection and Confidential File Audit on an annual basis. Both are carried out by our Designated Safeguarding Leads, Mr Kenny and Miss Pip, and overseen by Safeguarding Governors, Reesha Armstead and Lewis James. The purpose of the audits is to ensure that all safeguarding and child protection systems are in place, that processes are properly followed and that full and detailed records are kept. During our recent OFSTED Inspection, the Inspector referred to our attention to safeguarding and child protection as 'meticulous and forensic' in detail.

Our Link Governors have had a busy term. Reports on Local Governing Body Development, Performance Management, Pupil Progress, the Curriculum, OPAL Play, and Health and Safety have been submitted to both the Governing Body and Equals Trust.

Finally...

As always, we wish to thank all of Brookside staff, parents and children for another term of successful teaching, learning, excitement and fun!

We hope you have a well deserved restful Easter break with continued sunshine and plenty of chocolate!

