



Governor News

Spring 2026

Welcome

Hello and welcome to the Spring Governor News.

This term seems to have flown by so fast and already we're looking forward to the Easter break. This time of year sees our children due to take their SATs in May working extremely hard in preparation. As is always the case with Brookside, there is a healthy amount of fun to be had to balance this, either by letting off steam in the playground with OPAL Play or through the wide variety of extracurricular activities and sporting opportunities on offer.

We are delighted to have welcomed Amanda Sutcliffe as a Trust Governor and can see already by her committed enthusiasm that she's going to make a huge contribution to the Governing Body.

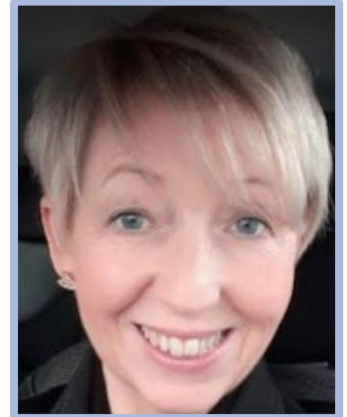
Fond Farewells

This term, we are very sad to be saying goodbye to our Vice Chair, Jason Billin. Jason has been a long-standing member of our school community both as a parent to children who attended Brookside and during his first stint as a governor in the early 2000s, when he had a hand in promoting Mr Kenny to Headteacher. Having left for some years, Jason couldn't resist returning to the Governing Body in 2018 as we were going through a huge phase of school development and beginning the complex process of transitioning to academy status through Equals Trust.

Jason's been committed to ensuring compliance around health and safety and championing Brookside in his role as Parish Councillor. He will be missed as a valuable member of the governor team, although I suspect he'll never be far away)! We're thankful for all he has done and we wish him the very best for the future!

Introducing Amanda Sutcliffe

I am very pleased to introduce myself as a new member of the Governing Body. I live in East Leake and have been part of the local community for many years. My two daughters have now grown up but being a



parent gave me a strong appreciation of how important a supportive and positive school environment is for children and their families. I also have personal experience of special educational needs, which has given me a good insight into how valuable patience, understanding and the right support can be in helping every child reach their potential.

Professionally, I work full time as a solicitor specialising in property law. I am also recently self employed which gives me the flexibility to undertake this role. I hope to bring my professional skills, along with my experience as a parent, to support the school wherever I can. I am very much looking forward to working with staff, governors and the wider school community.

Governor Vacancies

We still have three vacancies on the Governing Body.

If you, or someone you know, would be interested in joining us, please contact the school office.

Governor Update

School Development

As governors, we are thrilled that reintroducing the school nursery to Brookside has proven to be a greater success than we could have imagined! A huge amount of work has been done to re-establish the nursery, it has been promoted well within the local community and we have seen much faster growth than anticipated.

The curriculum has been built with a vocabulary rich focus with an emphasis on learning through play. Children are carefully introduced to the space and the nursery is already well integrated into the school.

Governor Monitoring

Our focus for this term has been to carry out governor monitoring visits on Local Governing Body Development, Health and Safety, Buildings and Equipment, the Curriculum and Pupil Progress.

A selection of reports were presented at this week's Governor Meeting and they have all been submitted to Equals Trust.

Training

As required by Equals Trust, governors have been updating their training on the Prevent Duty. Prevent is a government strategy and a legal safeguarding duty in schools, which aims to protect young people from supporting terrorism or becoming terrorists, being drawn into extremist ideologies or radicalised behaviours and fostering resilience and understanding risks.

Schools are required to promote British Values around the rule of law, democracy, liberty and tolerance, and encourage dialogue, debate and critical thinking within a 'safe space'. The overall objective is to provide early intervention to support individuals who could be susceptible to radicalisation and following safeguarding protocols in reporting concerns where necessary.

And Finally...

You will know from communications from school and our social media pages that there is a constant hive of activities going on throughout the term at Brookside.

I was delighted to come and enjoy Year 3 and 4's incredible performance of High School Musical this week! I felt a sense of nostalgia for the era from whence it came, when my two daughters were obsessed with the film and soundtrack! The show had the same colourful costumes and backdrop, with high energy dancing to the well-known songs and all the children performed brilliantly. A huge congratulations to you all and to everyone involved in putting it together!

As always, Brookside wouldn't be the wonderful school that it is without its fabulous pupils and staff and without the support of our parents, carers and those within our local community. We truly appreciate all that you do.

Let's hope that the sunny weather appears again over the next couple of weeks, whether you're going on holiday or spending time munching on Easter Eggs at home! Whatever your plans, we hope you enjoy a well-earned break.

Reesha Armstead

Chair of Governors