

### News from the Governing Body

As we draw to the end of a busy term, it is time to update parents on news from the Governing Body. Garden Suburb Infant and Junior Schools have a joint Governing Body and Governors sit on various committees which include Curriculum, Staffing, Finance, Special Education Needs and Pupil Welfare and Premises.

This term on the Curriculum Committee, Governors have analysed and discussed the results from the SATs (Standard Assessment Tests) which the children sit at the end of KS1 (Infant) and KS2 (Junior).

In the Junior School, the Year 6 children sat an external test in Reading, Grammar and Maths. Their teachers assessed their Writing. The expected level of achievement by the end of Year 6 is a **Level 4**. In the table below, you will see the numbers of Garden Suburb children achieving a Level 4 in the different assessed areas. You can compare this percentage with the Barnet and National averages.

	Garden Suburb Junior School	Barnet	National
Reading	94%	91.1%	89%
Grammar	89%	75%	76%
Writing	89%	86.2%	85%
Maths	92%	88.8%	86%

A number of children exceed the national expectation and achieve a **Level 5**. In the table below, you will see the percentages of children achieving a Level 5 in the different assessed areas.

	Garden Suburb Junior School	Barnet	National
Reading	74%	53.3%	53%
Grammar	86%	62%	52%
Writing	35%	35.3%	33%
Maths	69%	50.6%	42%

A group of children sat the **Level 6** paper in Reading, Grammar and Maths. Level 6 is equivalent to the expected level of achievement for a Year 10 pupil. The results in Grammar and Maths are exceptional.

	Garden Suburb Junior School	Barnet	National
Reading	1%	0.3%	0%
Grammar	23%	7.5%	4%
Maths	24%	13.2%	9%

In the Infant School, the expected levels of achievement are a Level 2B. In the table, the numbers show the percentage of children achieving a **2B** or above.

	Garden Suburb Infant School	Barnet	National
Reading	79.8%	79.9%	81%
Writing	71%	69.2%	70%
Maths	77.5%	80%	80%

In the table below, you will see the percentage of children at the school who achieved a **2A** and above.

	Garden Suburb Infant School	Barnet	National
Reading	60%	57.3%	57%
Writing	38.2%	38%	39%
Maths	58.4%	56.7%	53%

Pupils achieving a Level **3** are exceeding the expected level of attainment and would normally be expected to achieve this level by Year 4.

	Garden Suburb Infant School	Barnet	National
Reading	23.6%	30.1%	31%
Writing	13.5%	16.7%	16%
Maths	21.5%	24.7%	24%

The results from both schools very much feed into their development plans. In the Junior School for example, a priority is to ensure the good progress of all pupils in Writing. In order to do this, the quality of teaching remains a priority and many new initiatives have been introduced. These include the introduction of literacy groups across the school, a particular focus on the teaching of grammar skills and a greater emphasis on children editing and redrafting their work, following detailed marking and feedback given by teachers.

In the Infant School, a primary focus this year is on speaking and listening with an increased emphasis on the importance of listening skills as well as extending vocabulary and teaching the children more higher order language skills. The school also aims to raise attainment across the Curriculum in Reading, Maths and Writing. In order to do this, initiatives this year include a new programme for recording and monitoring the progress and attainment of all children, an improved use of questioning and feedback in lessons by teachers so pupils gain a deeper understanding and finally more targeted support for the more able pupils so they can be pushed to achieve their full potential.

As many parents will already know, the current Year 2 and Year 6 children will be the last cohort of children who will receive a Level Descriptor for their SATs exams. Although children will continue to sit national tests at the end of Year 2 and Year 6, it is not yet known exactly, how their marks will be communicated.

The children in both schools continue to benefit from the many school activities. In the Junior School, Year 6 pupils spent a week in the Isle of Wight at the end of the first half term. Thank you to all the staff who accompanied the children and in particular to Mrs Berger for organising the trip. We hear that the staff were particularly impressed with the behaviour of all the children! The Year 6 went to see Macbeth after having participated in some Shakespeare workshops at school. Year 5 pupils took part in the annual school trip to the Welsh Harp to study rivers as part of their Geography project. The Children in Need day was a great success with all the children dressing up as Super Hero's and raising £800 in total for this charity. The children were particularly thrilled when Pudsey Bear paid a visit and gave out the good behaviour certificates!

Last but not least, pupils and staff alike were very excited to receive the winning cup for the Best Educational Garden in Barnet. The three judges who visited our new garden were very impressed with the creative way in which the empty space at the back of the school had been transformed into a garden with a great variety of vegetables and fruit. Well done to all the children involved in planting and watering and a very big thank you to Mr Warren for his hard work and enthusiasm in our new garden!

In the Infant School, the children celebrated the annual Harvest Festival in the Free Church Hall. The singing was beautiful and a number of children recited poems about the Harvest Festival. In November, The Rainbow Theatre Group visited the school and performed a show about the Fire of London. The children had active roles and worked closely with the actors.

Once again, the Infant and Junior PTAs have done a magnificent job organising the Seasonal Fairs. Thank you to PTA members and all parents who provided the gifts, set up the tables, gave up their time during the day to act as shop keepers and sent their children in with money to spend!

To mark the festive season, many of the children have been honing their acting and singing skills. The Year 1 children performed the seasonal show "Hosanna Rock" while all twelve classes in the Junior School have performed class assemblies. Thank you to all the staff who have worked so hard to put these shows together.

In November, the Junior School received a one day visit from HMI carrying out a survey inspection. Pupils' work was scrutinised and staff and pupils were interviewed. Governors were delighted to hear about their findings and I can confirm to parents that it was a hugely positive and motivational experience for all staff involved. The school was found to be performing at an outstanding level in all the areas scrutinised. These included in particular the level of achievement and provision for the most able pupils.

On that very positive note, I would like to thank Head Teachers Mrs Bhavsar and Miss Sands and all staff for their dedication and commitment this term. Governors continue to be impressed by the creative teaching and variety of fun and educational activities which our pupils enjoy in both schools