



It has been a busy term on the Governing Body. The Curriculum, Finance, Premises, Staffing and Special Education Needs and Welfare Committees have all met and a number of policies and reports have been compiled, reviewed and then ratified at the main Governing Body meeting, which takes place twice a term.

The Governing Body welcomed back Sarah Sands, the Infant Head Teacher and thanked Liz Cormack, the Deputy Head Teacher, and all the staff for managing the school so well in her absence during the first half term.

Of interest perhaps to parents are the discussions which have taken place in the Curriculum Committee. From September 2015, the national Levels will no longer be used to assess the pupils as they progress up the school. All schools will need to devise their own systems of assessment. This is of course a challenge but the Head Teachers are in consultation with other local schools to share and support each other through this process. The Infant School staff have already met with Brookland School to discuss the national changes and to share ideas on assessment.

Governors are always delighted to hear about the very broad curriculum which the children experience in both the Infant and Junior Schools. In the Infant School, the children have enjoyed a whole school project on Van Gogh with the three year groups looking at different paintings by the artist. The children have enjoyed sharing their work in assembly and have apparently all become Van Gogh experts this term! Governors also heard about the very successful Barnet Dance Festival which took place at the Arts Depot. Thirteen Year Two children from the Infant School performed a disco dance and took part in a group performance with all the other schools. Well done to all the children who were involved in this and thank you to Mrs Alam for organising it.

In the Junior School, the staff have been busy organising extra activities for Science Week. Children have watched the chicks hatch in the entrance hall, sat in a dome where they have learnt about a range of scientific topics and each class has been visited by a parent who has talked about their Science related job. Thank you to Miss Childs, the science co-ordinator for her hard work in organising this special week. Many Junior School children also took part in a concert this term. The children in the choir sang and others played their instruments. Thank you to the music coordinator, Miss Scott, for organising this lovely concert.

This term, the Junior School received a congratulatory letter from MP David Laws. The SATs results achieved by last year's Year 6 showed that the school has improved in terms of progress and attainment achieved by the most disadvantaged pupils since 2011. The letter states that the school is "highly effective" in educating disadvantaged pupils. In connection with this, Governors have discussed in detail the Pupil Premium Funding for this academic year. Pupil Premium Funding is money given to schools, specifically to raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils from Reception to Year 11. The full report for Pupil Premium Funding and how the money is being spent in both the Junior and Infant Schools is on the schools' websites.

The schools' websites are both in the process of being updated. There is now a Website Audit for schools to adhere to and both schools have been busy working on this. We hope that, in time, it will not only be used as a reference for school information and policies but also to celebrate all the achievements of the children, for prospective parents and the local community to see.

Both schools have reviewed their provision for children with special educational needs, in view of the new legislation and SEN Code of Practice. The Infant SENCO and the Junior Inclusion Manager have produced the schools' SEN Report which explains clearly Garden Suburb schools' SEN provision. Both reports are published on the schools' websites for the benefit of parents, prospective parents and the wider community. The Governing Body thank both schools for the outstanding work done in this area.

The Schools' Travel Plans have been discussed this term. This document looks at how students, staff and visitors travel to school. Health and Safety issues concerning surrounding road traffic and illegal parking around the school continue to be a high priority agenda on the Governing Body. Thank you to all parents who show consideration when parking around the school at peak times.

Finally, parents, pupils and staff have been filling out a school survey. These results will be discussed at the Governing Body meetings and also fed back to parents in the Summer term.