

**Spring Term 2016 News Letter from the Chair of Governors 31st March 2016****Latest News**

Several changes have occurred this term on the Governing Body. Julia Sanitt, our Chair of Governors for four years stepped down in February 2016. I am sure you will join me in thanking Julia for her skills and dedication in ensuring that the Governing Body of both schools worked to the highest standard. Julia is not leaving us altogether and remains a valued member of the Governing Body. For the rest of the academic year, the Governing Body has elected Jane Harris as Vice-Chair and myself, Françoise Wagneur as Chair. Thank you, we will endeavour to continue in Julia's footsteps and ensure the good running of the Governing Body of both schools.

I am glad to welcome, on behalf of the Governing Body, Mrs Shivangi Smythe (Shiv) who joins us as Junior Parent Governor. Shiv is most probably well known by most of you as she is an active member in our Junior and Infant PTA.

Finally, I want to thank Shiv, the PTA and all the parent community for mobilising everyone and ensuring that Garden Suburb Junior School has become a Priority School for the Archer Academy. This has now secured that fifteen more children from the Junior School will have a place at the Archer Academy in September 2017. Congratulations, this is a great success!

New National Curriculum & Assessment without Levels

In our Newsletter last term we informed you that pupils' assessment in schools have now changed. The Junior and Infant Schools' Head Teachers, Senior Leadership and teachers have worked hard in developing their new approach to assessment and the new National Curriculum so that our pupils are well taught and supported to achieve the new and higher standards.

The Junior School has sent parents/carers an information letter and put detailed information on the website. You have also received an information letter from the Infant School and the Curriculum Co-ordinators have addressed these issues in their curriculum evenings on Maths and Literacy. All this information can also be found on the Infant School Website.

The Governing Body has discussed, reviewed and ratified the Junior School new Assessment Policy and the Infant School Monitoring and Evaluation Policy. The infant school is also currently reviewing its Teaching and Learning and Assessment Policies and these will come to the Governing Body in the summer term.

In light of the changes, it is important for parents to understand that the new National Curriculum has higher expectations than before and contains new material. We recommend that you read the new information on assessment posted on the schools' website and address any queries to your child's teacher when you meet them.

The Governing Body wants to thank the Head Teachers and the Teaching Staff of both schools for the excellent work done on managing this time of many changes.

Governing Body work and Priorities

This term, governors have ensured that all the new assessment and curriculum work referred above was being developed without impinging on the ethos of the schools which promotes a creative and diverse curriculum as well as retaining an inclusive approach to teaching and learning. Governors have also supported the schools, where needed, by liaising with the Local Authority on SEN matters, attainment in the Infant School and Health and Safety.



The Governing Body priorities for the Summer Term are:

- To ensure that development and implementation of the New Curriculum and Assessment without levels is complete;
- To ensure that all staff and governors are trained in the new developments of Safeguarding;
- To ensure that the Infant and Junior schools have implemented their School Improvement Plan;
- To ensure that both schools' websites have been developed and include all the required information including celebrating pupils success and activities.

Celebrating School life & Pupils Events

This term was a busy term in both schools.

Junior School

The New National Curriculum is being delivered in the Junior School and we are proud of the broad curriculum with many activities and achievements to celebrate:

Maths Day saw the children being involved in a variety of maths activities whilst raising money for the charity NSPCC.

Reading is a school priority this year. World Book Day reflected this, promoting the joy of reading and writing including a writing competition entered by many pupils.

Science week, of course, was a very busy week during which we all had the opportunity to marvel at the hatching of ducklings in the incubator situated in the main entrance. I hope that you also enjoyed the webcam of the ducklings linked to our website.

Chess was again a highlight with two of our teams making it to the English Primary Schools National Chess Championship semi-final. Many new children participated for the first time. Congratulations, we are very pleased that Chess Club attracts so many of our children and appreciate the support that parents provide with their commitment to ensuring that their children attend tournaments.

Sports Relief day was a great success with pupils participating in various sporting events. This reminded children of the importance of sport as part of a healthy lifestyle. In addition, well done to all of our football teams for participating in a variety of competitions organised by the Barnet Sports Partnership. We are pleased that the Year 5 and 6 girls' teams also participate at such a level.

Healthy Lifestyle. Congratulations to the school for receiving the Bronze Level Healthy Schools award in February 2016! The Governing Body takes our pupils' health and wellbeing very seriously. We therefore want to encourage any initiative that promotes sports and healthy eating and welcome parents/carers support in achieving this.

Travel Plan. Congratulations to the Junior School for being awarded the Silver Level award in February 2016 for promoting safety around the roads of our school. Look out for the new CCTV cameras that are currently being installed to monitor the safety of the parking on Childs Way and around Willifield Green.

Thank you to all who have helped with organising all these events.

Infant School

In the Infant school many activities took place too and here are some highlights:

Art was celebrated in Reception with budding artists exhibiting in Costa, Temple Fortune.

Congratulations! This is bringing the creativity and talent of our children into the community.

Reading is also a whole school priority in the Infant school. To celebrate World Book Day, the children had great fun making their own costume representing a character of their favourite book



Childs Way
London NW11 6XU

for others to guess who they were. This meant that children had to refer to their favourite books and use their imagination, a wonderful way of promoting reading!

Parents/Carers in Year One were invited to a **Reading** Curriculum evening which focused on the skills the children need to develop as well as the importance of instilling an enjoyment of reading.

On **Safer Internet Day** the children had great fun writing messages to the adults in school and "posting" them on their "pages" which were dotted around the school. They remembered to be polite and kind and it reinforced that things posted on the internet are open to all.

The PTA organised two very successful events, the **Disco** and **Movie Night**. Both provided great entertainment and experiences that will contribute to fantastic memories for our children.

Dance was celebrated by the Year 2 children taking part in the Schools Dance Festival. The children had rehearsed very hard. Again this is an enjoyable way to join sport, art and involvement in the community. Well Done!

Healthy lifestyles were also promoted through a day of workshops provided by A-Life. The workshops, which were very interactive, engaged children in the practice of making healthy choices in food and exercise.

Maths was a focus at school this half-term. There was a Maths Curriculum evening for parents/carers in Year Two on how Maths is taught in school and how you can help and support your children at home.

These Curriculum evenings provided by the specialist teachers at school are invaluable and we do encourage all parents/carers to attend.

The school also ran a **Problem Solving Week** during which there was a workshop run by the Happy Puzzle Company. We hope all children enjoyed their puzzles and problem solving and were feeling proud!

Thank you to all who helped organising these events.

I hope you admire the magic of the Junior School nature garden with all its crocuses and daffodils. Thank you to everyone who has helped to tender this garden so beautifully. Thank you to all of the volunteers - Governor Ruth Beedle and parent volunteer Patricia Major as well as volunteers from the Horticultural Society. In addition, thank you to Miss Childs, Science Co-ordinator, and the Junior pupils from Gardening Club.

Thank you to the Infant and Junior PTAs for all their initiatives and help this term.

We wish a happy Spring Holiday to all our children, parents and carers and to all the staff in both the Junior and Infant schools.

Françoise Wagneur
Chair of Governors