



Childs Way, London NW11 6XU

## **Summer Term 2016 News Letter from the Chair of Governors July 2016**

**Dear Parents and Carers,**

This has been a very busy term for our schools and Governing Body. Thank you to all of you who took part in the Parents View survey this term. The results of the survey were extremely positive. Next year we will run our schools Pupils and Parents Survey as we do every two years. We greatly value your views on our schools.

### **Infant and Junior Schools Websites**

Both schools have done wonderful work on their websites all through the year. Both websites meet all statutory requirements and are a valuable source of information for parents, carers and the wider community. We encourage you to refer to them on a regular basis.

### **Latest News**

Mr Robert Wood, Junior School's Assistant Head Teacher, joined the governing body this term. Robert has also joined our Curriculum Committee and Staffing Committee where his contributions will be very welcomed.

Evelyn Thomas has left us after 2 years. She always made constructive contributions to the work of the SEN & Pupils Wellbeing Committee and the Curriculum Committee as well as on the Governing Body. We wish her the very best for the future.

### **Staffing**

Several members of the teaching staff and support staff in both schools are leaving us.

Barbara Poncia, who has been part of the kitchen staff for 6 years is retiring this Summer. We thank her for all her hard work and wish her a happy retirement.

In the Junior School, Miss Alhadad, Mr Cohen, Mr Hann and Miss Claire (Music Co-ordinator) are leaving at the end of term. Mrs Goldman will go on maternity leave. Miss Shemesh, Miss Antubam and Mrs Frost who are part of the support staff team are also leaving at the end of term.

On behalf of the Governing Body I would like to thank them all for their hard work and commitment to the school and the children and wish them the best for the future.

I would also like to welcome the new teachers, Miss Levin in Year 3, Miss Jerrard in Year 4 and Miss Davies the new Music co-ordinator.

In the Infant school, Emma Woolston and Melike Saylem are leaving at the end of term. Susie Sampson is on maternity leave and Harriet Jones will be going on maternity leave in October. Michelle Pash, who has been a Teaching Assistant for 12 years and Dipal Shah, the Purple class TA are also leaving this term.

On behalf of the Governing Body I would like to thank them all for their commitment, hard work and contribution to the Infant school and wish them the best for the future.

Last but not least, Mrs Menezes, Early Years Leader and teacher for more than 30 years, is retiring. Over her career she has led the Early Years Foundation Stage through many changes with confidence and her total dedication to the children has been exemplary. She also was Deputy Head Teacher for several years.

We join the Infant school's leadership and staff in thanking Mrs Menezes for her outstanding contribution to the school and wish her a happy retirement.

Finally, I would like to welcome the new teachers and TAs to the Infant school, Emma Martin in Yellow Class and Maths subject leader, Hannah Avis in Green Class, Sampreet Thandi in Blue Class, Bhavisha Patel in Lilac Class, Nienke Abbing in Turquoise Class and Amy Howard TA in Blue class.

### **Governing Body Work and Impact**

This academic year has been very demanding for both schools and the Governing Body.

#### In the Infant School:

We supported the school leadership in establishing a new staffing structure which is robust and will enhance the quality of Teaching & Learning, the delivery of a broad, creative and stimulating curriculum and maintain the school's excellent record on inclusion.

Recruitment of the right quality of staff has been a priority which involved a lot of time and energy from the school's leadership and the governors. We are confident that the rigorous recruitment process and the attention given to each candidate ensured that we will have a very strong team next year.

The full Governing Body and the committees scrutinised the work done by the Leadership to deliver on the priorities set at the beginning of the year in the School Improvement Plan. We were impressed by the quality and detailed work done by the Leadership and the school staff in addressing those. Teachers are effectively delivering their teaching within the re-organised day which includes specific dedicated time to literacy, numeracy and phonics.

New child-led challenges are working well; you have probably heard your child in year 1 and 2 talking about Chilli Challenges. The Child Initiated Learning approach in Reception is facilitating effective inclusion and supporting meaningful learning in very young children.

The school's provision to specific groups of children, sometimes in difficult circumstances, has been exemplary. I want to thank and congratulate the school's leadership and staff for their outstanding work in this area.

Finally, the KS1 SATS were organised in such a way that the children would not be stressed or intimidated by them. The Year 2 children were well prepared and the teachers were all very supportive of the children. I know that many of you were relieved by the calm approach to these tests.

On behalf of the Governing Body, I want to congratulate and thank the Leadership team and the Teaching staff for the hard and high quality of work they have put in this year!

#### In the Junior School:

The Governing Body supported the school leadership in implementing the priorities set in the School Improvement Plan. The school focussed on ensuring high quality of teaching and learning to meet the higher national standards and continue to prepare the children well in order to meet these new standards within a broad and rounded curriculum.

This year, the end of Key Stage 2 SATs results are well above National and Barnet average! Full details of the results will be shared with you in the autumn term.

Congratulations to the Year 6 Team for the excellent and very hard work they put in to achieve this success. Congratulations to all Year 6 children too, we are all very proud of them!

The school's leadership and teaching staff developed effective policies and procedures including a rigorous Assessment Policy. This work was scrutinised at full governing body level and at committee level. We were impressed by the high quality of work put into rising to the various challenges linked to the national curriculum and assessment without levels.

Recruitment was also a priority for the leadership and the governing body which took a lot of time and energy. We are confident that the new staff will integrate well with the existing strong teaching team next year.

On behalf of the Governing Body, I want to congratulate the leadership team and the teaching staff for the hard and outstanding work they have put in this year!

Safeguarding, Inclusion and support to specific groups of children.

The Governing Body is satisfied that the pupils in both schools are very well supported and are making good progress. We have updated our Safeguarding and E-Safety policies this year. In addition, we have ensured that our responsibilities regarding the “Prevent Duty” are being fulfilled. All staff and many governors have attended relevant training.

Plan for the new academic year

We organised a Governors Survey this year to give the opportunity to all governors to feedback on the workings of our Governing Body. As a result, we will bring some improvement to the way we work with the schools, including: Strengthening the presence and roles of Named Governors; develop more regular contact with the parents’ community and the children. I will provide an update in my Autumn Newsletter.

**Junior School’s Broad Curriculum and Events**

Congratulations to all those who have worked hard this term to maintain the school’s broad curriculum. This included various events in sports and music, Chess, World Book Day, Science Week, Healthy Lifestyle Week and more. The wonderful Year 6 production of Mary Poppins was the highlight of the term! The quality of all these events is evidence of the high quality of teaching & learning and of the diversity of talents in our children and staff. Thank you for all the hard work and goodwill put in!

**Infant School’s Broad Curriculum and Events**

Congratulations to all those who have worked hard this term to maintain the school’s broad curriculum. Although the Infant staff and children were under increased pressure this year, they still prioritised events in sports, Reading, Art and Science and brought it all together with the Year 2 Show celebrating the Olympics in a lively and cheerful way. The variety and quality of all these events demonstrate the quality of teaching & learning as well as the importance given to a rounded approach to child development.

**Infant & Juniors PTAs**

Both PTAs have done an enormous amount of work all through the year in both schools and add much value to our schools! Thank you for your consistent involvement and hard work.

Finally, I hope you enjoyed being part of our schools community and I wish all our children, parents and staff a great summer holiday!

Chair of governors  
Françoise Wagner

Vice Chair  
Jane Harris