



Childs Way
London NW11 6XU

Newsletter from the Chair of Governors**Summer 2017****Dear Parents and Carers,**

The Year 6 children worked hard and performed well in their KS2 SATs finishing the year with a vibrant performance of Oliver! We wish them an interesting and successful future in secondary school.

Our best wishes also to the Year 2 children who are moving on to Year 3. They all performed very well in their KS1 SATs. Their lovely performance of Hermelin the Detective Mouse showed they are ready for their transition to the Junior School.

Latest News

Julia Sanitt and Ruth Beedle who have been on the Governing Body since 2010 are stepping down. Both were very committed to the schools. Julia was Chair of Governors for several years and Ruth not only contributed to committee work but was also involved, with the children, in tending the Nature Garden and developing links with Akili, a charity working with schools in Kenya. We will greatly miss their contributions and support. We wish them well in their future endeavours.

The Junior School has several members of staff leaving this summer and new members of staff joining in September. The Head Teacher has already written to you regarding those who are leaving and the new staff starting in September. All the teachers who are leaving are relocating outside of London or overseas and Mrs Down, Year 3 leader, will be taking maternity leave at the beginning of October.

On behalf of the Governing Body, I would like to thank them all for their commitment to the children and the school over the years, and offer our very best wishes for the future. A warm welcome to all of the new teachers - we hope they will enjoy working in the Junior School.

There are no staff changes in the Infant school apart from Mrs Cormack, Deputy Head Teacher, who will reduce her working week to three days per week next year as part of her planned retirement and Mrs Coote who will remain class teacher for part of the week and will resume her music teacher role for the whole school two days per week.

Finally, on behalf of the Governing Body, I want to thank the Junior and Infant PTA Chairs and volunteers who do so much during the year to raise money and create a strong sense of community.

The Junior school

The school had a two day inspection in May and the Ofsted report recognises the many qualities of the school. Inspectors were impressed by the quality of teaching, the high quality of work produced by the children, the excellent level of support, inclusion and welfare provided, the children's good behaviour and their overall sense of happiness. Parents/carers can read the full report on the school's website.

Congratulations to the Leadership Team and all the members of staff who, during these two days, demonstrated their professionalism and dedication. I would also like to congratulate the children who were exemplary in their behaviour during the inspection.

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Ongoing staff training & development, a rigorous system of assessment as well as emphasis on team work have ensured that the quality of teaching and learning was consistently very good from Year 3 to Year 6.

At first analysis, the end of KS2 assessments show that the school has maintained high standards of attainment and the results are well above national standards. We will report fully on attainment & progress in the autumn.

The whole team has also worked hard on delivering a broad curriculum. Children benefitted from lessons and events which have broadened their minds and ensured that British Values have been incorporated throughout the curriculum. Sports was a particular focus and success this year with the "Bike it" initiative and participation in the Cophall Athletics Championships, where the school came first in the field events.

Finally, congratulations to Ms Chalfen, the School Business Manager, whose excellent work ensured that the school's financial audit was graded 'Outstanding'.

2017 – 2018 Priorities:

The school will finalise its priorities in September. The school is committed to developing:

- The areas for improvement outlined in the Ofsted report
- Best practice in working with LSAs/Additional Adults
- Pupils voice and behaviour for learning
- A programme of training in order to support the number of new staff joining the school

The Infant school

The Infant school had major priorities this year in order to drive improvement in pupils' attainment & progress. The Senior Leadership team established in September, has ensured continued improvement in the quality of teaching & learning across the school, the development of a new approach in the EYFS Reception year and better progress for specific groups of children. This was supported by the development of a more precise and "easy to use" assessment and monitoring system.

Management and staff worked extremely hard over the year to develop these and ensure success. At first analysis, pupils' progress and attainment for EYFS and KS1 have improved dramatically compared to last year and are above national standards. We will report fully on attainment & progress in the autumn.

All this was achieved while also ensuring that the children benefitted from a broad and enriching curriculum which ensured that inclusion and British Values were embedded in the school life. This included visits, art, themed assemblies celebrating diversity and engagement with the wider world.

The Governing Body fully appreciates the huge effort made by all staff this year. Congratulations to the school management, the teachers and support staff for their dedication and success.

2017 -2018 priorities:

The school will finalise its priorities in September. The Head Teacher and her staff will focus on embedding and strengthening the areas of development worked on this year which include:

- Developing the work of Support Staff
- Further developing Maths teaching
- Developing the leadership skills of subject leaders
- Developing Pupils Voice & engagement

Chair: Mrs Francoise Wagneur

Vice Chair: Mrs Jane Harris



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Parents & Pupils Survey

Thank you to all parents/carers and pupils for answering the schools surveys. The parents' surveys were very positive for both schools and showed that the vast majority of parents were even more satisfied with the schools education provision and children's wellbeing than two years ago.

The main area of concerns for both schools (20% to 30% of all parents who responded) was that homework and school work could be even more challenging. Around 26% of Junior school Parents in one year group only, felt the school could have done more to support their child's learning and could deal more effectively with behaviour issues.

The pupils' survey in the Junior School, which was conducted in school with their class teachers, showed that the majority of pupils (80% to 96% of all pupils who responded) were positive about the teaching and learning and how the school supported their wellbeing. However, the survey was at odds with the parents' survey and a significant minority of pupils expressed more dissatisfaction than two years ago. This was more significant among one year group.

Between 20% to 30% of pupils felt that there was too much homework and not enough computers; they felt the adults in school were not sufficiently attentive to their views or concerns and that children misbehaviour should be dealt with more effectively.

The pupils' survey in the Infant School, which was conducted at home with their parents, was consistent with the parents' survey and with the one done two years ago. The vast majority of children were positive about how the school supported their education and wellbeing. A minority of children find there are not enough computers and too much homework. They would like more activities during lunchtime and after school.

Governors and Head Teachers analysed the surveys' results in detail. The Governing Body and the schools' leadership are committed to developing pupils' voice and engagement in school life and make it an improvement priority for both schools next year. There will be more on this in my Autumn term letter.

Governing Body Work & Impact

This year, the Governing Body worked a little differently and governors were more closely involved with both schools. Named governors met regularly with link staff to support and see evidence of progress on the schools improvement priorities. This dialogue was an opportunity for staff to talk and reflect on their work. Governors also attended staff training, curriculum events and SLTs meetings which informed discussions and scrutiny. Committees ensured that the main areas of schools' work were scrutinised and pupils' progress was discussed on a termly basis.

Governors were actively involved in the Junior School recruitment process and the Junior Ofsted inspection. The Ofsted report describes governors as: "... knowledgeable and experienced... and fully involved in the life of the school". Governors supported the Infant school leadership with the implementation of the new staffing structure. They also worked on securing future places for Garden Suburb children in local secondary schools; dealt with premises maintenance concerns, financial decisions and planning and Safeguarding where appropriate and regularly supported extra-curricular activities.



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It is difficult to quantify governors' impact. Hopefully, this year demonstrated the benefits of a Governing Body being first and foremost supportive of the schools endeavours, ambitious for their pupils and more closely involved in school life.

We will agree a new set of priorities for next year at our first meeting in October.

We are committed to focus on:

- Developing pupils' voice and engagement
- Developing closer communication with parents/carers
- Refining the Named Governors brief to improve impact on schools performance
- Supporting the schools in maintaining high standard of pupils' achievement and wellbeing
- Supporting school staff and leadership in managing workload to ensure a healthy work/life balance.

It has been a very busy year and both schools have achieved much success! A heartfelt thanks to all, and wishing all our parents/carers, children and school staff a very good summer holiday.

Best Wishes,

Chair of Governors
Françoise Wagneur

Vice- Chair
Jane Harris