



Childs Way
London NW11 6XU

Newsletter from the Chair of Governors**January 2018**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year to all!

We hope you all had a good holiday and the children are looking forward to the Spring Term.

Latest News

Katalin Barzca-McQueen and Elisabeth Tacey both left the governing body last term as they need to dedicate more time to their careers. Katalin was very active as Chair of the Inclusion and Pupils Wellbeing Committee as well as a governor on the Staffing Committee. Elisabeth was the Infant parent elected governor. She was also very involved in the Inclusion and Pupils Wellbeing and the Premises Committees. Their consistent support and expertise will be greatly missed. We wish them both success in their new endeavours.

Welcome to our three new governors, co-opted in December:

Aneka Grover and Tara Ward-Amoun are parents in the Infant school. Aneka Grover was previously a governor at Moss Hall Junior School. Ziya Kocabiyick is a community governor, who is also a founder governor at North London Grammar School. Aneka, Tara and Ziya bring with them a wealth of expertise to the Governing Body. On behalf of the Governing Body, I want to thank them for their commitment in becoming governors for our schools.

This January, the Infant school will hold an election for a parent governor. We hope several of you will be interested. The most important qualities are an active interest in education and enough time available to commit to meetings, visit the schools and attend LA governor training.

The Governing Body is in the process of reviewing how to communicate more effectively with the parent/carers and the elected governor would be expected to take an active role in this.

Premises issues were key areas of work for the school and governors during the Autumn Term. Major works have taken place on the school entrance and gates to improve safety and security of the building. Many thanks to the Junior School Business Manager, Ms Chalfen, and the governors who have supported with these developments.

The Junior School

The head teacher and the leadership team have taken their latest Ofsted report and the school's good SATs results into account to set their priorities for the year. The school's focus is on: maintaining good quality teaching across the school with a focus in providing more challenge for all pupils, particularly in writing at greater depth; embedding behaviour for learning by strengthening pupils' Learning Powers and developing Pupil Voice by having an active School Council in order to take into account the views of children on aspects of the school's provision. A particular focus of staff training is to challenge and support the children to achieve 'greater depth' in their writing. A variety of initiatives to support this are currently taking place.

The broad curriculum is ensuring, as always, that children are engaged in diverse activities in sports, art, music and knowledge of the wider world and cultures which reflects the fundamental values shared by all. Participation in more inter-school sporting events is a particular focus this year. You will have enjoyed hearing about the events and activities in the weekly newsletter and in the 'Latest News' area of the website. .

Last term, the school introduced a soft start to the school day. This has reduced congestion in the cloakrooms and enabled a calmer start to the day. Feedback from the pupils and staff has been very positive. We look forward to your feedback.

Chair: Mrs Françoise Wagneur

Vice Chair: Mrs Jane Harris



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Thank you to the Senior Leadership Team and all Junior staff for their dedication and commitment in ensuring a good start to the academic year, including the successful induction of six new members of teaching staff and two learning support assistants.

The Infant School

The Infant school's priorities for the year focus on strengthening the major improvements made last academic year and their good SATS results. The school is concentrating on quality teaching across all year groups with a focus on Maths so that pupils who may have difficulties are identified early and well supported. Increased attention is also given to tracking pupils' progress within each class so that teachers are able to refine differentiation to suit each child. The development and support of teaching assistants means that classroom teaching is more effective and pupils in danger of underachieving are supported early and adequately.

Last term the school also started working with the children on establishing what are the good attitudes and behaviour for learning. No doubt you heard all about the assemblies introducing the different animals attached to specific qualities necessary to become a lifetime learner.

In Reception, the focus is to embed child-led learning, further develop parents/carers participation in their child's learning with the use of tapestry online learning journals, and more regular parents' visits as well as ensure that children are ready in terms of their overall development, Phonics, Literacy and Numeracy to begin their formal education in Year 1.

As the Reception year is the foundation for your children's future educational success it is very important that parents work closely with the Reception teachers and year group leader. The team will always welcome feedback and listen to any concern you may have.

The Infant school prides itself in offering a broad and exciting curriculum. Sports, art, music and knowledge of the wider world are an integral part of the school life. You will have enjoyed some of the events in the Autumn Term.

Finally, the Infant school is in the process of further developing appropriate ways to gather Pupils' Voice and foster children's engagement in school life.

Thank you to the Senior Leadership Team and all the Infant school's staff for their hard work over the Autumn Term.

Governing Body

In the Autumn Term, the governing body has reviewed both schools' Development Plans. Governors have supported the schools by discussing and agreeing schools targets; monitoring schools budgets and advising on the financial future as schools funding will see major changes from April 2018; ensuring that safeguarding procedures are in place and applied; supporting the schools with premises and grounds issues to ensure security of the children.

Named governors have visited the Infant school and will visit the Junior School this spring. This brings governors and key staff together to discuss new initiatives and/or concerns.

Best wishes to all,

Françoise Wagneur (Chair of Governors)

Jane Harris (Vice-Chair)