



Childs Way
London NW11 6XU

Newsletter from the Chair of Governors**July 2018****Dear Parents and Carers,**

The Summer Term is nearly over and has been busy and eventful.

On behalf of the Governing Body I would like to thank the head teachers, the leadership teams, all teachers and support staff for their hard work and commitment over the academic year. Thank you also to the PTAs for organising many events for parents and children. Thank you to all governors for giving their time to actively support the schools leadership in maintaining both schools' high standard of education and welfare for our children.

Latest News

On behalf of the head teachers and governors, I welcome our new community governor, Paola Riddle. Paola has worked in education for 40 years including 20 years as head teacher of a primary school in Brent. She is now retired and looks forward to supporting our schools and sharing her knowledge and experience with us. We are very grateful to have her on board.

For health reasons, I am stepping down from the Chair of Governors role, taking effect at the beginning of next academic year. Working closely with the head teachers, leadership teams and staff of both schools has been an immense privilege and pleasure. It has also been a great pleasure to work with all governors on the governing body. Thank you to all for their trust and support.

Ruth Henrywood and Omar Shah will share the Chair role as Co-Chairs from September 2018. My thanks to both of them for taking the lead.

Jane Harris is stepping down from being Vice-Chair in order to Chair the Inclusion and Pupils' Wellbeing committee from September 2018. Many thanks to Jane for working so closely with me and the head teachers and for her passion for the schools and pupils.

This term we are saying goodbye to long standing and much appreciated members of staff.

Infant School

Mrs Cormack, Deputy Head teacher of the Infant school, is retiring after having worked for the school for 27 years. Mrs Cormack has been instrumental in raising pupils' standards and the quality of teaching across the school. She celebrated each child and always ensured that their wellbeing was nurtured. She introduced the Learning Behaviour scheme to support children building the right attitudes to learning, as well as new assessment methods to ensure that all children received the right support and were not left behind.

Thank you to Mrs Cormack for her vital contributions to the school and generous hard work over so many years as well as her nurturing approach to all children. We will miss Mrs Cormack greatly and wish her the best on her retirement.



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Ms Sarah Jowsey, who was KS1 Leader, has been appointed as Deputy Head teacher as from September 2018. Congratulations to Ms Jowsey. We are all very happy to have her as our new Deputy Head.

Mrs Coote is also retiring from the Infant school at the end of this year, after having worked over thirty years for the school as music teacher and class teacher. Mrs Coote's passion and love for the children and music permeates the school. Successive generations of children remember Mrs Coote with fondness for her talent, her enthusiasm, her way of bringing the best out of each child and of course for her extraordinary shows which always made all children so proud. Thank you Mrs Coote for giving without counting for all those years. We will miss her greatly and send our very best wishes on her retirement.

We welcome Ms Geanina Cucu as Music Co-ordinator for two days a week, starting in September. Ms Cucu is also working at Akiva and is an accomplished musician.

Thank you also to the following teaching staff who are leaving the Infant school at the end of this year: Miss Nienke Abbing - Turquoise Class; Miss Hannah Avis - Green Class; Sam Thandi - Blue Class - is going on maternity leave; Deepika Khandelwal – Meal Time Supervisor and Teaching Assistant; Sanjul Shah – Green Class Teaching Assistant. Shahnaz Bahboodi is leaving her teaching assistant role, but continuing as a Mealttime Supervisor. Bernadette O'Regan retired from full time teaching two years ago, after over twenty years in our school. She has been teaching two days a week this year, but is leaving us finally at the end of the year.

All worked very hard over the years and we will miss their contribution to the school and the children. Thank you for their commitment and our very best wishes for the future.

We have appointed teachers for all teaching posts. Unfortunately, due to changes in funding next year, we will not be able to renew contracts for three teaching assistants and one PPA/Leadership cover. We are very sad about losing such good members of staff.

Mrs Rubina Kesavji has been appointed KS1 Coordinator and Ms Andrea McClean will go full time to be class teacher in Pink class.

We welcome the following class teachers: Ms Megan Bailey in Green class; Ms Paige Young in Turquoise class; Ms Meghan MacLeod in Blue class; Ms Andrea Vajdics in Purple class (job sharing with Harriet Jones)

Junior school

Mrs Waines and Mrs Savva are retiring at the end of this academic year. Mrs Waines has worked in the school for over 30 years. Her current role is RE Co-ordinator as part of the PPA team. In addition she delivers a variety of interventions across the school.

Mrs Savva, after being a class teacher in the Infant school for several years, moved to the Junior School ten years ago. Her knowledge of specific learning difficulties and special educational needs as well as EAL contributed greatly to the introduction of specific initiatives. She has been instrumental in raising the achievement of children with learning difficulties.



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Many thanks to both for their invaluable contribution to the school and the children over the years. We wish them both the very best on their retirement.

We welcome the following members of staff who will join the Junior School next year:

Mr David - Assistant Head /Year 6 Co-ordinator

Miss Grabiner – Year 6 teacher

Miss Clarke – Year 5 teacher

Miss Mason – Year 4 teacher

Mrs Paynter – Music Co-ordinator

Mrs Down – returning from maternity leave for 3 days per week in a non-class based role.

Next year the Assistant Head teachers, Mr Glazelle and Mr David, will lead year groups but not be class based. Mr Glazelle will be focusing on the development of teaching and learning in the lower school (Year 3 and Year 4). Mr David will focus on Year 6. Mrs Houghton, Assistant Head, will continue to manage SEND and Inclusion. Mrs Berger, Deputy Head, will be focusing on the development of teaching and learning in the upper school (Year 5 and Year 6).

Mr McGwinn will focus on the development of PE across the school. He will not be class based but will teach PE to all classes as part of PPA (Planning, Preparation and Assessment release for teacher). Music and Spanish will continue to be our other PPA subjects.

Safeguarding and children safety

As you know, we take safeguarding and children's safety and wellbeing extremely seriously. The governing body receives regular reports on safeguarding and safety in the Inclusion and Pupils' Wellbeing committee and at all governing body meetings. Any issue is followed up by the Safeguarding governor. Both schools have focused on physical and online safety again this year. As a result, very few incidents of inappropriate online use were reported and all children are becoming much more aware of how to behave online and keep themselves safe. However, with the long summer holidays, it is important for all parents and carers to remain vigilant and reinforce safe use of the internet, particularly regarding computer games which should only be allowed if age appropriate.

Schools and governing body main highlights

Governors are very proud of both schools' achievements this year. The governing body focused on giving ongoing support to the head teachers, their leadership teams and on scrutinising each school's Improvement Plan and staff development so that whole school priorities were successfully met. These included writing at greater depth for both schools, Maths in the Infant school, developing middle leaders and quality of teaching for both schools as well as pupils' voice and the broader curriculum.

Junior school

The Junior school head teacher and her senior leadership successfully built a very strong middle leaders team with strengthened responsibilities in terms of pupils achievement and quality of teaching in their year groups.



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There was a whole school drive on raising pupils' achievement in writing at greater depth and encouraging the love of reading and writing. Specific staff training took place throughout the year and two major writing projects were completed:

The Catch-A-Lot, a whole school writing project, took place in the Spring Term. Children took pride in their writing and the whole teaching staff had the opportunity to review their teaching approaches and differentiation.

The Year 6 transition project was run in collaboration with four other primary schools and the Archer Academy. Children in Year 6 worked on a quality text, The Phantom Tollbooth. The project resulted in high quality outcomes in the Junior School and helped to raise teachers' expectations of the pupils.

The Junior School leadership and teaching staff also focused on developing pupils' voice this year. The school council encourage debate and discussion in the classroom and was very active and engaged on giving feedback on various aspects of the school e.g. lunch menus, games for lunch time play and other school matters. The role of houses captains was also developed. Governors and school staff recognise that pupils' voice is very important for the children's wellbeing and engagement in their learning.

Finally, great importance is always given to the children's physical development and the broader curriculum with activities initiatives and clubs across the curriculum. The Junior school were the proud winners of the Copthall Athletics competition this year and they enjoyed success in many other sporting events. Another highlight was the Year 6 show, Les Misérables, with music played by the children as well as beautiful singing and acting.

Congratulations for a very successful year and all the hard work put in by all of the staff and the children. Our best wishes to all Year 6 children who are leaving us and joining secondary school in September.

Infant school

In the Infant school, the Head Teacher and Leadership team concentrated on developing and embedding last years' new initiatives. The focus was on developing Middle Leaders, developing the role of Teaching Assistants, further developing Maths teaching and writing in Greater Depth as well as developing Learning Behaviours with the children.

The Infant school leadership and teaching staff had a very successful year, confirmed by a very good Ofsted inspection and report. To mention but a few successes, in EYFS the team has been focusing on developing not only Child Led Learning but literacy and numeracy and continuous assessment via Tapestry. The team has also prioritised strengthening their relationship with parents/carers to support children's development and learning.

Quality of teaching and learning in Maths and writing/reading has been developed in all year groups, including new interventions, First Class @ Numbers and Project X which have had a dramatic effect on pupils' achievement. Assessment, tracking and marking have been further refined and ensured that children making slower progress received focused support earlier. The profile and work of the Teaching Assistants was strengthened this year and had a great impact on pupils' achievements.

Chair: Mrs Francoise Wagneur

Vice Chair: Mrs Jane Harris



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The Infant school also gives great importance to the broader curriculum and the emotional and physical development of the pupils. Foundation subject coordinators have developed their subjects and are working with class teachers to ensure that foundation subjects are integrated with literacy and Maths subjects. PE initiatives such as tennis and dance contribute to children's physical wellbeing and their gross motor skills development.

Finally, music and art always has a high profile in school. It is fully integrated in the curriculum and examples of the children's beautiful art work can be seen all around the school. The wonderful Year 2 show is evidence of the quality of art and music in school coming together!

Congratulations for such a successful year and all the hard work and commitment from the leadership, the teaching and support staff and the children. Our best wishes to all the children moving on to year 3.

Support Staff

Meal time supervisors and kitchen staff, caretakers, administrative and welfare staff and teaching assistants play a vital role in schools. Without them, the schools could not function. On behalf of all governors, thank you very much to all support staff for their ongoing hard work and commitment to both of the schools and their pupils.

We wish all our parents/carers, children and staff a very good summer holiday.

Best Wishes,

Françoise Wagneur
Chair of Governors

Jane Harris
Vice-Chair