



GOVERNORS NEWSLETTER SPRING 2013

This term, the Governing Body has reviewed the Self Evaluation Forms (SEF) for both schools. These documents are directly linked to the schools' Development Plans. They are completed by the Senior Leadership Teams and help the schools to focus on their main areas for development.

The Governing Body also ratified the Terms of References for Committees and Panels and agreed on a number of policies, including Fraud and Corruption, Whistleblowing, Lettings Procedure, Child Protection and the Special Educational Needs Policy. Staffing Structures for both schools have been approved.

In the Curriculum Committee this term, the Infant School presented their new homework initiative for children in Years 1 and 2. Examples of work were shown and feedback was given. Thank you to all parents who returned their questionnaires on the new homework book. These were mainly very positive with constructive comments.

In the Junior School, the main objective is to improve the overall quality of teaching from good to outstanding. The staff have received training on teaching and learning targets. The importance of year teams working closely together with regular and structured lesson observations has been discussed.

Curriculum enrichment is a strong point in both schools with many trips and special days or focus weeks organised this term. Years 1 and 2 visited The National Gallery back in January. The children enjoyed seeing and hearing about the painting 'The Bathers at Asnieres' on which they have based their work this term. The Junior School has introduced a number of new trips this term. The Year 4s visited Kensington Palace as part of their history project on the Victorians and the Year 5s visited The Tower of London as part of their focus on the Tudors.

The Science Week in the Junior School was very busy. Parents with Science related jobs came into school to discuss their work with the children. These included a radiologist, plastic surgeon, chemistry teacher and pastry chef. Forensic workshops were organised where children had to gather evidence to solve a crime, the Year 6s visited JCOSS School where they worked in a Science laboratory and last but not least, an incubator with chicken eggs was installed in the entrance hall for two weeks. Children and staff were thrilled to watch them hatch and observe their first couple of weeks of life!

The Problem Solving Week in the Infant School was a week of challenges and conundrums. Assemblies were held where problem solving was discussed and the challenge of designing and making a Super Hero using only newspapers, carrier bags and masking tape was set for all Year 1 and 2 pupils.

In the Junior School, there is a wide range of extra- curricular activities but two note-worthy achievements deserve a special mention. First the Upper School Choir entered the Barnet Eurovision Song Contest with nineteen schools from all over Barnet taking part. The choir sang a folk song in Spanish and were awarded first place by a panel of judges for their excellent musical performance and pronunciation. Second the Junior School Chess team, consisting of 12 players, won the Barnet Schools Championships at the end of January. The team dominated throughout the competition and were worthy winners. Well done to all the children and a special thank you to the teachers who prepared the children so well for these competitions.

The parent/pupil survey went out this term in both schools. Approximately 56% of forms were returned in both schools. The data will be analysed by an external company and will be discussed at the next Governing Body meeting and shared with parents next term.