Brook Infant School Governor Newsletter



Issue 6 - Summer 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

The summer holidays are just around the corner and as we come to the end of another successful, exciting and busy school year at the Brook Infant School.

The Brook School is very fortunate to have such a dedicated, talented and hardworking team who are always seeking to improve learning and teaching for the benefit of the pupils. The Governors would like to thank all the staff at The Brook for their incredible hard work this year. We would also like to thank all parents and carers for their support and most importantly we want to thank the wonderful Brook children for being so amazing.

The close of the academic year and the start of a new one always brings change. This year is a really big change as we are saying goodbye to Miss Dowley. We are beyond sad to see Miss Dowley leave as her incredible work and total professionalism has shaped The Brook into a fun, caring and wonderful school where the ethos comes to life everyday as each child is nurtured and really does learn with love and laughter. We are extremely grateful for her outstanding leadership and how she has developed an exceptional and dedicated team of teachers and staff whose passion, drive and enthusiasm match hers. This is a really massive achievement and we will really miss her but we know that she will continue to be amazing in her next role.

We are delighted that Mrs Sarah Cox will join The Brook as Headteacher from September 2019. Mrs Cox is an experienced Headteacher who has most recently worked as an educational consultant implementing, developing and enhancing teaching and learning in schools across the UK. We are really excited that Mrs Cox will be able to maintain and build on the excellent educational standards that Miss Dowley has established during her ten year Headship.

The Governing body also said goodbye to Ian Taylor who stepped down and we thank him for his contribution to the Governing Body. We welcomed Ollie Gurr and Shelly Hotchkiss as Parent Governors and Rajiv Singh as a Co-Opted Governor. I hope you will join me in congratulating them on becoming governors at The Brook.

Who we are…

Fiona Dowley
Headteacher

Karen Flowers
Co-opted Governor and
Chairman of Governors

Daniel Mitchelmore
Parent Governor and
Chair of Resources &
Premises Committee

Simone Beazley
Co-Opted Governor
and
Chair of Curriculum
Committee

Hannah Witham
Staff Governor

Tracy Gidman
Support Staff
Governor

Grant Taylor
Co-Opted Governor

Rajiv Singh
Co-Opted Governor

Ollie Gurr
Parent Governor

Shelly Hotchkiss
Parent Governor

Emma Taylor
Clerk to Governors

All school Governors are volunteers and aim to provide a strong link between the school, parents/carers and the local community. Our Governing Body structure allows for two staff governors (including the Head Teacher), one local authority governor, two parent governors and seven co-opted governors (one of whom is an additional staff governor and others from the community).

Governors do not need to be educational experts as other skills are welcomed and valued. We have no powers as individuals, and our authority is exercised collectively. Our responsibilities are managed through two committees. The Resources and Premises committee looks after finance, premises, health & safety, staffing and pupil welfare. The Curriculum committee is responsible for overseeing curriculum development. The committees meet at least once each term and report back to the full Governing Body at least three times a year.

The school Governors make regular visits to the school and examine reports, data, and policies closely. We ask questions to understand how and why things are done and we challenge in a supportive way. We are actively seeking new ways of sharing ideas, experience and data with other schools to help the school, and us as a Governing Body, identify and implement best practice. The focus of the Governing Body's work is directed by school's priorities as set out in the School Development Plan. In all our work we are mindful of our main aim: ensuring that your children receive the best education possible in a safe and secure environment, learning, growing and succeeding throughout their years at the school. We make decisions about school policy, review existing policies, evaluate data, track the progress of the School Development Plan, keep up to date with events in school, agree premises development and carefully monitor the school budget. We cannot do this without a huge input from staff, and we are always thinking of ways to improve our performance.

Schools are fascinating places that change and grow. It is very rewarding to be part of the 'Learning with Love and Laughter' process and to be investing in the education of the next generation.

The governors would like to say a huge thank you to parents and carers for their support which helps make our school such a friendly and warm community. I am very proud to be part of it.

Karen Flowers
Chair of Governors



Are you interested in becoming a Governor? Contact us at governors@brook.w-sussex.sch.uk
All our newsletters are available on the school website www.brook.w-sussex.sch.uk

Feedback form

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Please return the feedback form to the School Office for the attention of Emma Taylor, Clerk to Governors