

## NEWS FROM THE GOVERNING BODY - SUMMER TERM 2014

This term, the introduction of the new National Curriculum has been discussed at length both in the Curriculum Committee and in the full Governing Body meeting. Staff from both the Junior and Infant Schools gave detailed presentations on the main changes and how these will be incorporated in September. Staff are well prepared and ready to face these new challenges and governors were impressed with the way in which these changes are being embraced and managed by both schools.

The schools are always keen to share good practice with other schools. In the Junior School, for example, Mrs Anderson and Mrs Goldman shared their expertise on 'Lesson Study' with another local school. 'Lesson Study' essentially means teachers observing each other over a series of lessons and focussing in particular on the learning outcomes of the children at the end of each lesson. This practice has become embedded in the Junior School with staff now taking part in 'Lesson Study' in all years. A team of teachers in the Infant School have also been trialling this initiative. Miss Jowsey from the Infant school has just become a school based consultant for Art and Design for the Barnet Partnership for School Improvement and will be using her considerable skills in this area to provide advice and training to other schools in the local authority.

At the beginning of the summer term, the schools held a Governors Open Day where governors were able to wander around the schools, observe lessons and talk to pupils. Governors commended the positive working atmospheres in both schools with stimulating lessons and very well-behaved children. Governors observed an array of lessons and lunchtime clubs across the schools, including numeracy lessons, literacy lessons, a lunchtime robot club, a board games lunchtime club, a painting class and a Spanish lesson.

The schools' Travel Plans and safety around the school have been discussed on the Governing Body this term. Unfortunately some parents are still parking illegally on Willifield Way. Others persist in driving up Child's Way at peak times. All parents are requested to put the safety of the children first and foremost. It is dangerous to park right by the school on the pavement, with so many pedestrians on already crowded pavements. It should also be remembered that there are a number of Junior School children who travel to and from the school unaccompanied and the illegal parking makes crossing the roads even more hazardous. Please park a little further away and walk! Next term, the PTA will be organising a rota to stand at these points at peak times. If you would like to help, please do get in touch with them. Head Teachers and Governors are also

asking local councillors for more traffic wardens to patrol at drop-off and pick-up times.

The children have enjoyed a number of trips this term. In the Infant School, the Reception children visited Kenwood House. This is always a highly successful trip where the children enjoy their picnic in the beautiful grounds as well as their first short trip in a school coach! In the Junior School, the Year 5 children visited a Hindu Temple and the Year 3 children visited the Roman Baths in Welwyn to help consolidate their learning on The Romans topic.

The Governing Body would like to thank the PTAs for their very hard work. In the Infant School, the Peter Pan Treasure Hunt, the Summer Camp and The International Food Fair, in the Junior School, the Comedy Night, Phil the Bag and the discos are just some of the events which have been organised. These events all raise valuable funds for the school as well as bringing children and parents together to help cement our school community. A very special thank you to Vanessa Bell, the Chair of the Junior PTA, Lisha Taylor, the Vice Chair and Irene Prashar, the Secretary, as well as Shiv Smythe and Yaffit Eisin the Infant PTA co-chairs, who will all be stepping down at the end of this term. They have worked tirelessly over many years to organise fun activities for the children as well as raise a huge amount of money for the school.

A number of staff are leaving this term. In the Infant School, Miss Isabelle, Miss Wallace and Mrs Garbutt are moving on and in the Junior School, Mr Cohen, Miss French, Mr Barron, Mr Barnes, Mrs Ingham and Mrs Preveser. Thank you to them for all they have contributed to the schools. We wish them the very best of luck for the future.

On looking through the newsletters from this term, I can see why the teachers and their pupils may well be staggering towards the finishing line at the end of a very busy summer term! The World Book Day, Wateraid Day, the Animal Encounter Show, the World Cup Assembly and the Gogivers Project are just a handful of the exciting activities that have taken place this term in the Infant and Junior Schools. The brand new vegetable garden in the Junior School has been a great success and is a stunning new feature in the school. The children have enjoyed watering and watching the vegetables grow this term and the tomato growing competition between the classes has generated a lot of excitement! As usual, the Year 2 and Year 6 shows were both superb and are a real credit to the children and the staff involved.

Thank you to the Head Teachers, Miss Sands and Mrs Bhavsar, and to all staff in the Junior and Infant Schools for their enthusiasm, hard work and dedication this year.