

Autumn Term 2015 Newsletter From The Chair of Governors

Latest News

The Archer Academy School is reviewing its admissions policy whereby Garden Suburb Junior School could become a feeder school, enabling more Garden Suburb children to attend. The school has only been open for a few years but already its catchment area has shrunk dramatically due to an increase in demand for places. The school is holding a 2 month consultation so it is important that you make your views known. There will also be a public meeting on 11th January at 7pm. More information regarding this proposed change is on The Archer Academy School website.

Pupil attainment and assessment

On the Governing Body this term, there have been detailed discussions on attainment and progress data for both the Junior and Infant School.

Many congratulations to the Junior School on another excellent set of Year 6 SATs results last term. Pupils sat tests in Reading, Grammar and Maths; the Writing is teacher assessed. Children achieving a Level 4 are meeting the National Expectations and children achieving a Level 5 are exceeding National Expectations. A Level 6 result is exceptional.

The tables below outline the results from the SATs tests with Borough and National comparative data.

READING	Garden Suburb Juniors	Barnet	National
Level 4 (and above)	93%	91.3%	91.4%
Level 5 (and above)	63.2%	54.6%	48.2%
Level 6 (and above)	2%	0.5%	0%

GRAMMAR	Garden Suburb Juniors	Barnet	National
Level 4 (and above)	88.5%	80.1%	87%
Level 5 (and above)	80.5%	55.5%	36%
Level 6 (and above)	16%	6.4%	2%

MATHS	Garden Suburb Juniors	Barnet	National
Level 4 (and above)	93.1%	89.3%	87%
Level 5 (and above)	55.2%	49.5%	41%
Level 6 (and above)	25%	15.1%	9%

The Writing is teacher assessed.

WRITING	Garden Suburb Juniors	Barnet	National
Level 4 (and above)	89.7%	86.8%	87%
Level 5 (and above)	28.7%	36.9%	36%
Level 6 (and above)	3.4%	2.5%	2%

Governors have discussed these results at length and in particular the Writing at Level 5. In this particular cohort, there was a gender gap in Writing results, with girls outperforming the boys. This is thought to be a cohort- specific issue and it is hoped that, next year, the gap will be closed. For more information on Key Stage 2 Sats results, please refer to the school website.

Well done too to the Infant School where there was a significant jump in children achieving a Level 3 (exceeding expectations) in Speaking and Listening, Reading, Writing and Maths compared with the last few years and also compared with National and Barnet data. Pushing up the number of children achieving a Level 3 has been a focus for the Infant School this year and the staff and children have worked hard to achieve these results.

	GSIS	GSIS	GSIS	Barnet	Barnet	Barnet	National	National	National
%L3+	2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015
SPEAKING/LISTENING	34.1	19.1	31.1	23.1	25.3	27.9	29	31	25.1
READING	27.5	23.6	32.2	26.9	30.2	31.2	15	16	31.9
WRITING	8.8	13.5	20.0	14.9	16.7	17.8	23	24	17.5
MATHS	11.0	21.3	27.8	22.3	24.8	26.7	23	24	26
SCIENCE	39.6	28.1	27.8	24.0	26.1	26.0	22	22	23.3

The table below outlines the percentage of children in last year's Year 2 achieving a Level 2, a Level 2B+ (meeting and exceeding National Expectations) and a Level 3 (exceeding National Expectations) in Speaking/Listening, Reading, Writing, Maths and Science with Borough and National comparative data.

%L2			
SPEAKING/LISTENING	82.2	90.6	90.6
READING	82.2	92.1	90.5
WRITING	82.2	89.9	87.5
MATHS	87.8	93.6	92.9
SCIENCE	83.3	91.4	91.1
%L2B+			
SPEAKING/LISTENING	-	-	-
READING	74.4	83.0	82.1
WRITING	66.7	73.3	72.1
MATHS	77.8	82.4	81.6
SCIENCE	-	-	-
%L3+			
SPEAKING/LISTENING	31.1	27.9	25.1
READING	32.2	31.2	31.9
WRITING	20.0	17.8	17.5
MATHS	27.8	26.7	26
SCIENCE	27.8	26.0	23.3

As stated above, pupil attainment in each subject area improved at Level 3 from 2014 and was slightly higher than Barnet and National data. Pupil attainment at Level 2+ and Level 2B+ was disappointing in each subject area however and this has been and will continue to be a point of discussion at committee level. This year's School Improvement Plan already addresses this issue.

**Assessment without Levels**

This was the last year however where children will be assessed using levels. From this academic year, all children are being assessed 'without levels' in relation to the new curriculum. Children in Year 2 and Year 6 will still undertake end of Key Stage tests however.

Assessment without levels is a significant change for many schools around the country and both the Infant and Junior School are grappling with introducing their own personalised assessment systems which enable the staff to check what the pupils have learned and whether they are on track to meet National expectations at the end of the Key Stages. Both schools are in close contact with other local schools through the Schools Improvement Partnership and the sharing of ideas is proving a valuable resource. Monitoring the removal of levels and the assessment system that replace it is a Governing Body priority and we will continue to update you on this in our newsletters.

Governing Body Work and Priorities 2015-16

Our committee structure which covers Finance, Curriculum, Premises, Pupils SEN and wellbeing and Staffing issues ensures that all aspects of school life and work are discussed and monitored throughout the year.

This term, governors have discussed both schools' Improvement Plans. These plans set out the many agreed priorities for the schools over the academic year, examples of which include ensuring the school curriculum remains of the highest quality and developing the quality of teaching, learning and assessment.

The Governing Body also ratified its priorities for 2015/16. These include monitoring the development and implementation of assessment without levels throughout both schools, ensuring the safeguarding policies are well implemented, monitoring the success of the new school websites and ensuring that they meet the needs of pupils, parents and community and lastly, promoting governor training so governors are up to date with changes in education and school governance.

School trips and workshops

Governors are always delighted to hear of all the trips and additional in-school workshops which are organised. In the Infant School, the Year 2 visited Buckingham Palace and have also enjoyed a workshop on the Great Fire of London, the whole school celebrated the Harvest Festival in the Free Church Hall and Year 1 looked for Stick Man in Big Wood! In the Junior School, Year 6 left for their week long residential trip to the Isle of Wight where they were said to be fabulous ambassadors for the school. Thank you to all the staff who have helped organise these outings and additional workshops.

Governor Vacancy

Next term, we will be looking for a new Junior School parent governor to join us on the Board. If you have an interest, we would be delighted to hear from you. Skills relating to finance, ICT or public relations would all be useful but above all a genuine interest in the schools as well as a commitment and time to devote to this very rewarding role are what is needed.

It remains to wish children, parents and all the staff in both the Infant and Junior School Season's Greetings and a very happy new year.

Julia Sanitt
Chair of Governors