

Primrose Hill Primary School Weekly Newsletter



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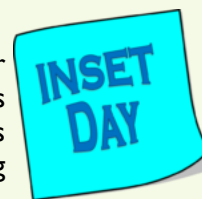
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The very final news for the year as we had some extra things which wouldn't fit in last week. Wishing you all a very happy and restful summer break and I look forward to seeing you on Wednesday 4th September.

Additional INSET Day

You will now know we have an additional INSET Day which means there will be no school for children on **Monday 2nd and Tuesday 3rd September**. This additional time will allow us to focus on our staff training and preparation but also get a handle of things in order to make sure classrooms are ready for September. With so much going on in the holidays and with a later starting building project, we will need all hands on deck. Thank you for understanding.



Attendance...

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, I am over the moon with our attendance figures for this academic year but I hope to achieve a higher figure for the next year!

We will be monitoring attendance across the school (as usual) but also we will start focusing on punctuality a little more!

Reminder on punctuality:

- ✧ If your child arrives between **9.05 am - 9.15 am** they will be marked **late**.
- ✧ You will need to sign in the Late Book
- ✧ If your child arrives after **9.15 am** they will receive an **unauthorised late** mark.

Where children arrive after **9.15 am**, it will show up on their attendance report as **missing half a day** and will go down as **unauthorised late**.

Finally, have a lovely and restful summer break and I'll see everyone at 8:45am on 4th September! **Lyra.**

Coming up during the summer holidays

A lot happening during the summer holidays for the ARP!

- The ARP building work begins
- Some work on our playground and garden
- New kitchen equipment in preparation for the dual Halal service
- And the nursery is being decorated



Staffing

With the end of the year, this brings some changes. As you know Laura Beeson will be finishing this term to begin her maternity leave. Hopefully time will fly by and Laura will be back with us in a little while. We look forward to hearing some happy news during the holidays. We are not replacing Laura during the maternity period, but will absorb her duties within the SLT. We are also saying a temporary goodbye to Hannah Wright who is taking some time out but will be back with us in January. A big thank you to Hannah for being the most flexible and conscientious person! We also say goodbye temporarily to Anna Kielczewska who will also begin her maternity leave immediately. Anna has been a fantastic teaching assistant working across the school and we look forward to welcoming her back in the future. In September, as Danielle Bowmaker is soon to begin her maternity leave, Jemma Bourne takes over the role of Phase Leader. We already know Jemma will do a superb job. Marianne Mattinson will be returning from long term leave after her knee operation and we look forward to seeing her. Thank you to Mireille Alwan for covering her teaching duties and being superb. And finally, we are saying farewell to Valbona Dragusha and Rokib Ali who have been working with us as teaching assistants. Both have provided some excellent care and support to the children, staff and families of Primrose Hill and if we had a buoyant enough budget to keep them, we definitely would. A big thank you to them for their efforts and I wish them well for the future.

Good Luck

Message from the Governors

Dear Parents and Carers

As Chair of Governors at Primrose Hill School, I am writing to you at the end of this 2018-2019 academic year to report back on the work of the Governing Body to support the school this year. I took over as Chair in Autumn 2018 and it has been my privilege to work with Robin and the team in that capacity since then.

The Governing Body's role in the school is three fold:

- To ensure that there is a clear strategic vision and direction
- To hold the head teacher to account, particularly for the educational performance of the school
- To oversee the school's finances

For me there have been two highlights of the year for the Governing Body. We have supported Robin and the team in the progression of the Autistic Resourced Provision (ARP) at the school. In spite of some delays beyond our control to the associated building reconfiguration works, I am very pleased that we expect to welcome our first child to the ARP later in the autumn. The Governing Body also supported the consultation on the provision of Halal meat at school lunches. This was a sensitive subject and I think we helped the school find an appropriate solution.

As well as four full Governing Body meetings in the year, we have termly meetings of three sub-committees and the chairs of those committees have summarised their work this year below:

Curriculum and Pupil Welfare Committee (Chair: Ophelia Field)

The Curriculum and Pupil Welfare Committee looked at a range of issues that relate to the content of teaching, learning, safeguarding, behaviour and all kinds of inclusion, especially special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). We checked how the children of Primrose Hill were doing in terms of 'equalities' by considering the 2018 SATs results in terms of gender, ethnicity, levels of disadvantage, etc. And we adopted or re-adopted no less than 12 essential school policies. Individual members of the Committee visited the School and reported to the Governing Board on the School's safeguarding systems, SEND provision, literacy (reading and writing) and maths teaching, and the mental health of both pupils and staff. We heard reports from Robin on the work the School was doing to further involve parents and carers in their child's learning, as well as on establishing the ARP. We talked through the choices being made about the curriculum in light of the shrinking 2019-20 budget, and also the changes required by the DfE on sex and relationships education. All in all, a productive year of fairly routine business.

Staffing, Leadership and Performance Committee (Chair: Hilary Aylesworth)

The Staffing, Leadership and Performance Committee works with the senior leadership of the school to develop and enact supportive systems, structures and policies for all staff members. As former teachers, parents and carers ourselves, we know school culture is a plant that needs constant tending. And so, our broadest measure of achievement is a happy and healthy staff which in turn enables a positive learning environment for pupils. The Committee is proud of our collaborative efforts to achieve school improvement goals this year including and especially: effective class scheduling and organisation, increasing pupil attendance and protecting the wellbeing of our entire school community through excellent staff-led communication, a supportive staff appraisal system and forward-thinking policies.

Finance and Premises Committee (Chair: Gavin Davies)

The Finance and Premises Committee met termly in 2018-2019. Unlike the academic year, the school's financial year runs from April to April so much of the committee's work in the early part of 2019 was to review the draft budget for the year from April 2019. You may have seen news about falling school funding and this has impacted Primrose Hill like others. In spite of a number of difficult decisions, Robin and the team have produced a workable budget for 2019-2020 which is a very good achievement in the circumstances.

Challenging times

There is no question that these are difficult times for schools. Government funding has reduced but parents' expectations are - quite rightly - high, even increasing. We do not ask you to lower those expectations, but we do ask you to understand that our School is faced with difficult choices at the moment in terms of the curriculum and the children's enrichment activities, even as we continue to receive other funding to improve parts of our building and playground.

On top of these financial concerns, the number of children entering primary education in Camden is predicted to fall over the coming years. Several local schools are already seeing the effects of this through falling rolls.

In spite of these pressures, Primrose Hill School remains popular and successful. I personally think this is down to a combination of the school's inclusive and diverse culture and its educational performance. We have performed excellently in this year's Year 2 and Year 6 SATs for which credit and thanks go to Robin and the whole team for their dedication and hard work (and to the children of course!).

Finally I want to thank you for your input and support over the last year.

Wishing you and your children an enjoyable summer holiday,

Gavin Davies