



GOVERNORS' NEWS

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Summer 2012

Parental Survey Feedback – Thank you for your comments

Governors will be joining Mrs. Kilpatrick and the staff early this term for initial discussions that will lead to formulating the school priorities for 2012/13. Amongst the many components informing the discussions will be the comments from the Parental Survey carried out last term. Whilst this survey cannot provide viable statistical information due to the slightly disappointing 11% response rate, the comments given by the 23 families who did respond provide a very useful insight into the parental perspective of life at the school.

We were delighted to read so many positive comments about the school, for example:

“My children are excited about their learning”

“Any problems/issues are dealt with efficiently and effectively”

“The children are very respectful and well behaved”

“High standards are expected of the pupils”

“The range of activities is very comprehensive ensuring a fully, well-rounded education”

“Wonderful opportunities for music” plus many more.

We are pleased to inform you that action has already been taken on some of the aspects which you felt we could address to make things better, for example:

- *A secure 'postbox' has now been fitted outside the school office for parents to drop off letters without having to queue at reception*
 - *A new dress code has been issued for all the staff*
- *Work has now started to improve the playground – see over page*

Careful note has been made of **all** the comments, and Mrs. Kilpatrick has been in direct contact with parents who raised concerns on very specific issues. Obviously, not all comments will result in direct action being taken by the school as parental views contrast enormously on certain topics, homework being a prime example! However, parental views do sometimes differ from those of staff and governors, and for this reason, we find your comments invaluable to help us meet our ultimate goal of striving to provide the best possible education and opportunities for your children whilst there are at BHJS.

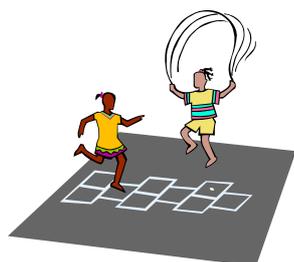
The school governors would remind all parents/carers that the school, initially your class teachers, always welcome discussing any mild concerns you may have, so that these can hopefully be addressed or clarified before they have a chance to develop into problems.

A NEW GOVERNOR ON BOARD!

We are delighted to welcome Jayne Sutton-Muldoon as the new Parent Governor, and the first parent from year 3, onto the Governing Body. We look forward to introducing her to the various governor roles, and to working with her over the next four years.

For any parents who thought about putting themselves forward for the recent vacant governor position, but never quite got around to sending in the nomination form, another vacancy will be “up for grabs” when one of our long-standing parent governors reaches the end of her 2nd term of office in September. Ideally, we would like to identify her successor before the end of the summer term.

If you would like to find out more, please contact: Mary Liming, Chair of Governors via Mrs. Wharton or Mrs. Halfhide in the school office, or email me direct on: mary.liming@talk21.com



A new surface at long last!

In the recent survey, several parents commented on the need to improve the playground. Governors have been aware of this for some years, and are delighted that this year it is finally possible to start work on the playground but we shall be needing your help.

School funds for development projects are very limited these days and spending has to be prioritised. Over the past couple of years, we have been concentrating on upgrading ICT provision throughout the school so as to meet the needs of our expanding numbers of pupils, to replace outdated and inefficient ICT facilities, and to respond to OFSTED's December 2009 recommendations. We now have wonderful new ICT facilities and equipment, partly thanks to the support of the PTA who contributed a fantastic £14,000 towards this development.

PHASE 1: “THE BORING PART” - RESURFACING

Due to a succession of whole-school building projects in recent years (re-cladding and re-roofing the original building, then the expansion project), it has not made sense to spend our limited financial resources on resurfacing the playground, only to have it potentially damaged by the builders. Finally, however, we have been able to bring contractors in to create the much-needed new surface, and also to slightly enlarge the playground to incorporate the area between the new building and the existing playground. Hopefully, this will now reduce the number of grazed and gritty knees!

PHASE 2: “THE EXCITING PART” – INSTALLING NEW FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT

Over coming months we shall be looking to enhance the playground with new line markings, benches, tables and other equipment. We are, once again, looking to the whole school community to get involved to enable us to provide exciting new facilities for all the children on the playground. The resurfacing alone has set us back some £26,000, £10,000 of which was very generously donated by the PTA. With very little money left in the school budget, we do hope that all parents will find a way to support the various events and activities of the PTA in coming months, so that between us - staff, governors, parents and children - we can meet our goal of creating a safe, happy and exciting playground for all the children.