



“Knoll News is Good News”

Brent Knoll school

Spring Term Newsletter – March 2017

As the new Head teacher I am delighted to be here at Brent Knoll School. Both pupils and staff have made me extremely welcome. I am both amazed and humbled by the commitment, energy and professionalism of everyone here at the school. Their sole aim and purpose is to provide the best support, best learning and best care for each child and young person at the school.

This newsletter is to give you just a flavour of the great variety of work, activity and fun that took place this term.

As a parent if you want to get more involved it's never been easier. You can become a school governor, join our parents' forum, come to a weekly coffee morning or attend the family support meetings – for more information read on...

[Noel Gibb – Head teacher]

The Head's Up

In the period since January as Head teacher and when I first started in November I have now met 72 staff individually. I know I have joined a really good school in terms of the quality of teaching & learning, financial health and staff commitment. However, like everywhere, there are areas for improvement. The school's finances are in good order but there is room for greater efficiencies to protect the school for the future shock. We have set up staff groups to look at curriculum change for our older pupils in preparing them for life after school. We have also set up a staff well-being group and another which is reviewing the school's behaviour policies and practices.

Building works

The learning environment is crucial to the success and development of our pupils. This outstanding building continues to need attention. However, the senior management team with support from governors and our premises team, has made great progress this term. We have addressed most of the wear and tear of a year's living in the new build; resolved some of the snagging problems and set up a robust system to deal with day to day maintenance issues.

Educational visits

The school has been involved in a range of visits and activities this term. There are a number of regular trips out, for example to the Swimming pool at the Bridge Leisure Centre and to Forest Hill.



[Pupils "sampling" sculpture at Tate Modern]

Below is a list of some of the many events that took place.

January

Sycamore class: **Pizza Express** Beckenham - PHSE healthy choices
20 pupils **Chelsea football club** – stadium tour
Year 8s: **Horiman Museum** – bugs, beetles and butterflies for a Design Technology project

Ash class: **Post office** in Sydenham – give purpose to their writing
Year 9K: **Evelyn Grace Academy** in Brixton - Panthalon Sports Challenge
Ash class: **Mayow Park** – recreate story in the Forest

February

Year 9K: **Jump giants** - reward trip for good behaviour
Year 9s: River walk – lesson in changing land use
Year 10s: **Dulwich Picture Gallery** - view portrait paintings
Sycamore class: visit to **Buddhist Peace Pagoda**
Football tournament Long lane 10 pupils
Elm class: **London City Airport** – support IPC project topic on Airports

March

Year 11: **Goldsmith College** transition event
Year 8s: **Imperial War Museum**
Year 8b: Parents meeting at **Macaroni Woods**
Year 11b: **Tate Modern** – to look at sketches
Year 10k Savacentre
Year 9K: **Crystal Palace sports Centre** - Pantahlon sport centre
Mini Boccia finals **UEL, Docklands**
Swimming Gala Westcroft Leisure Centre
Year 8B: residential to Macaroni Woods - group bonding
Football tournament at the school
Year 7s – 11k work experience day at **Wembley Arena**
LYP Boccia & Mini Finals at **Crystal Palace** – winning silver and bronze medals

Keeping our pupils safe

The welfare, safety and well-being of all the children and young people here at school are our number one priority. Every Monday the senior management team review those pupils that have raised concerns and each month a wider group of professionals monitor and review all the pupils' welfare. Noel has recently been on Designated Safeguarding Lead training and Andy will also be going on similar training. The whole school staff will have further safeguarding training on Friday 31st March.

Good Governance

If you want the school to be the best it can be, join our governing body. Contact our Chair of Governors Liz Bailey at the school

In House - events

There are regular specialists and skilled practitioners who come in and work with the children such as **Beat Box Duo, Movement Works, Autism movement therapy, Speech Bubbles** We continue to get visits from our community police officer.

Paul Shaw [Assistant Head] organised a very successful **Work Experience Day**.



[Pupils meeting professionals' workshop]

The older pupils were involved in a range of activities from team building and mock interviews to meeting professionals from different career backgrounds. The school also received a visit from our local college Lewisham and Southwark to look at potential courses for future study.

A notable highlight was the **Makaton Choir** performing at the town hall on 9th March. Both staff and pupils performed brilliantly on the night and their performances at school are often a highlight. A big thank you goes to Jeanette Coyle for the terrific work she does with them.

Staff Training and Development

To get the best out of our pupils it is important to nurture and develop our staff. This will continue to be a priority and the school will look to invest more in professional development Here is just some of the training that happened this term:

- ✓ **Team Teach: training the trainers [using de-escalation techniques with pupils]**
- ✓ **Team teach training for staff**

- ✓ **Medical training for first aiders**
- ✓ **Makaton training**
- ✓ **Sounds Write training**
- ✓ **iPad training in class**
- ✓ **Secondary subject leaders – Effective Classroom Practice**
- ✓ **PECS Level 1 Workshop [Picture Exchange Communication System]**
- ✓ **School Website training**
- ✓ **SOLAR assessment / progress meetings [school's new assessment programme]**
- ✓ **Inspire Maths leaders in Primary**
- ✓ **Delivering outstanding PHSE in Schools**
- ✓ **BETT conference**
- ✓ **Chinese cookery**

School Home Support

Our school home support advisor Emma Moore provides a crucial service supporting parents and families on a range of issues. The key focus is their children's progress and development at school and what may be getting in the way. Emma holds regular coffee mornings for Parents every Wednesday. Come along or contact her at the school.

We also have a regular Parent Support Group with Jeanette Coyle. Contact her at the school for more information.

Ambitious about Excellence

The quality of the learning in the classes is always our main focus. The school ensures that our children and young people continue to thrive by supporting our staff through learning walks and lesson observations. Our new assessment tool, SOLAR, helps us to capture evidence of pupil development and map their progress. We are also looking at their progress in the range of therapies and interventions. Recently we had a visit from our School Improvement partner who was impressed with the teaching and learning and gave us ways to improve both delivery in the classroom and how to evidence pupil improvement.

School Council Matters

The council met with governors Gill Stephenson and Cassim Bakharia, the school cook and the catering manager. The pupils expressed their frank views about school meals and made some positive suggestions. The meeting ended amicably with cookies and flapjacks!!

Parents Forum

The forum is looking to involve more parents. Its planned meeting will focus on a curriculum overview, organising of a social event and an activity for parents to network focusing on external providers that offer holiday schemes. Get involved: contact Andy Taylor (deputy head) or Cassim Bakharia at the school

Red Nose Day

The school raised £240 on Friday 24th March. There was a staff cabaret, pupil fair and a staff vs. pupil dodge ball match which the staff won obviously!

Easter Concert

Another highlight of the term was the Easter concert which showcased a number of pupils' musical talents and the first performance of the staff singers. The school thanks Gina Evans for the amazing work she has done and wish her well as she goes on maternity leave this Easter.



[Easter Concert – Makaton Choir]



Visit our School Website

For more information about the school log on to our website: [www. Brentknollschool.co.uk](http://www.Brentknollschool.co.uk)

Ofsted Inspectorate would like parents' views, please log on to <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>