

Parents/Carers Newsletter – July 2014

The summer has seen many new developments and changes. This term we have welcomed some new faces to the Brent Knoll team. In the secondary department Kim Neville has taken up her new post as art/design technology coordinator while Caron Clarke has joined us as design technology teacher. They have both already made a big impression with the pupils and staff alike. Emma Moore has taken up her post as our new School Home Support practitioner. Emma is already meeting lots of parents and families and getting to know people in school. In September two new teachers will be joining the Brent Knoll team. Lydia Blackmore is joining the primary teaching team and Claire Ali will be taking up post as secondary mathematics coordinator and Year 8 classteacher. We look forward to introducing them in the new school year.

New School Building Update



The pace of progress on the new school building in the last few months has been amazing. At the time of the last newsletter in April the building foundations were still being dug and laid. Since then the steel framework has been completed and the floors have been laid on both the ground and first floor with brickwork reaching to the first floor. You can now clearly make out the size and scale of the building and recognise individual rooms and spaces.

At this time thought is now being given to the layout of the outside spaces which will include a ball sports area, a sensory garden/walkway, outdoor recreational space and specialist play and adventure playground equipment. We are looking to raise funds and attract sponsorship to make our outside areas as exciting and engaging as possible and create an environment that will be purpose built for our pupils.

Miss World visits Brent Knoll!

In October 2012 contestants from the Miss England competition helped raise funds to purchase a new coach for the children of Brent Knoll. Recently, Megan Jones the current Miss World paid a visit to the school to see what a difference the coach has made to the lives of our children.

Taking photos with the teaching staff of Brent Knoll School, Megan was given a quick tour of the staff facilities before meeting the children who had been excitedly expecting the arrival of Miss World. The tour included a visit to Penguins and Starfish classes in the primary department and the Year 7 classes. In Penguins class Megan was treated to a lesson in signing and joined in singing their signing song.



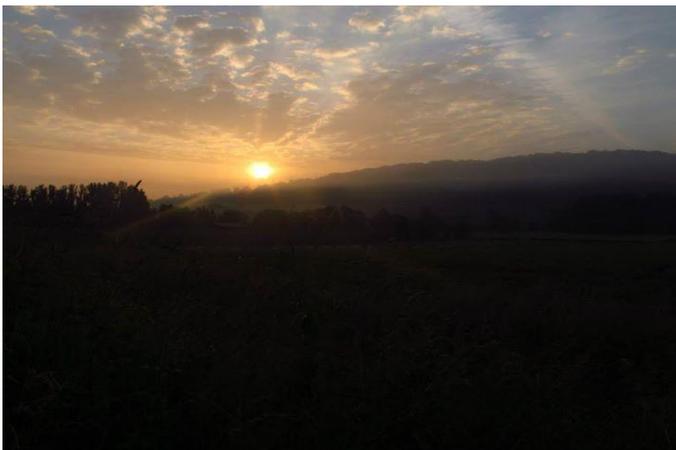
Mr Sharpe went on to sum up the importance of the support from Miss World “We truly appreciate the support from Miss World, Miss England and ‘Beauty with a Purpose’, not just what they do for us but all the other causes all over the world.”

Nightline

On the night of the Summer Solstice a team of Brent Knoll staff completed the ‘Nightline’ a 30 mile walk through the night from Widehorizons Eltham to the Margaret Macmillan Centre in Wrotham, Kent, raising funds for Widehorizons to provide Adventure Learning experiences for Brent Knoll pupils.



The walk began at 7.30 pm on the Saturday evening and the team walked through the night navigating by torchlight finishing 12 hours later, very tired and sore but with a real feeling of personal achievement. The high point had to be a most beautiful sunrise over the North Downs at 4.30 am!



So far fundraising looks to be on target to raise over £1000 which is a fantastic effort. There is still time to

Important Autumn Term dates:

The school opens for the Autumn Term on Tuesday 2nd September 2014

The half term holiday will be from Monday 27th October to Friday 31st October

Parents Evening is on Thursday 11th December and Achievements Assembly is on Friday 19th December at 10am. The school will close for the Christmas holiday at 1.00 pm that day.

support the team by donating online at www.virginmoneygiving.co.uk/team/brentknoll4

Brent Knoll pupils in National boccia finals

A team of four Brent Knoll pupils who won the London Youth Games boccia competition have qualified for the National finals in Sheffield. This is the first time a sports team from Brent Knoll have competed at national level.



Brent Knoll and Watergate Co-operative Trust

The Brent Knoll and Watergate Co-operative Trust has continued to grow and develop. We have been delighted with the relationship with our Trust partners and the opportunities that they have presented for our children. An informal meeting was held at Watergate School recently to begin to establish the Stakeholder Forum which will give co-operative members the opportunity to have their views represented on the Trust Board.

One of our Trust partners Phoenix Housing is providing some of our older students with the opportunity to experience working in a full size catering kitchen. The training kitchen at the new Green Man building is being made available for a taster session for our students followed by a programme of catering sessions in the new school year.



Wishing everybody a happy summer holiday!