

## Parents/Carers Newsletter – December 2014

This has been a long term for everybody but now Christmas is around the corner everyone is looking forward to the school holiday. There has been so much going on this term at the school, we welcomed new pupils and parents to Brent Knoll in September. It is always very pleasing to see how quickly the children settle in to their new surroundings, helped by our excellent staff of course, and we hope that now everyone feels a part of the Brent Knoll family. We have welcomed two new teachers to the school, Claire Ali and Lydia Blackmore, who have both settled in very well and are already an integral part of the team. In the new year we look forward to Paul Pearce joining the primary teaching team from Swiss Cottage School as a classteacher and music subject leader. We are also welcoming several new staff to the support team Christine Simpson, Billy Aksu, George King and Samantha Oshodi join the learning support team and Victoria Jones, Cheryl Gladstone and Piers Johnson are our new midday meals supervisors.

### New School Building Update



The new school building has been steadily taking shape. Nearly all the external brickwork is now finished and the internal walls are being built so that rooms are beginning to look like rooms and you can get a real feel for the space and layout. On the internal courtyard side the coloured walls have been completed and windows fitted on the first floor giving it the feel of a real building.



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.

### Forest School

All our primary classes have the opportunity to experience outdoor learning at the Forest School in Eltham. Run by one of our Trust partners, Widehorizons, Forest School is an inspirational long-term process that offers children and young people regular outdoor experiences, throughout the seasons and in all weathers. Forest School aims to increase the skills and knowledge of pupils' through a learner-centered approach.



Forest School experiences can also be very successfully linked to cross-curricular learning and academic teaching, with the positive effects having lasting results back in the classroom, at home and in the (wider) community.

### **School Journeys**

Year 7 have just returned from a highly successful residential school journey at the Margaret Macmillan centre at Wrotham in Kent. During their four days there they participated in lots of challenging outdoor activities such as the high ropes and abseiling. The staff reported that everyone had a great time and they were already looking forward to the next one!

### **The best GCSE results ever!**

At this Christmas Achievements Assembly we will be presenting last years Year 11 students with their GCSE and Entry Level certificates. Students from Brent Knoll have achieved some of the best ever GCSE exam results this year including the first ever A\* successes. Overall Brent Knoll students achieved 9 A\*-C passes including two A\* grades and there was a 100% A\*-G pass rate. Congratulations to all our Year 11 leavers and a big thanks to all the staff who supported them in achieving these fantastic results.

### **Multicultural Day**

Friday 24th October was Brent Knoll Multicultural Day. A day of music, dance, workshops and culture when Brent Knoll celebrated all aspects of our community! There were performances by children and staff representing four continents and in the afternoon the workshops included a multicultural food tasting. Thank you to everyone concerned with the production and also to all the parents and carers who came to support our Multicultural Day.



### **Brent Knoll Charity Fundraising**

At Brent Knoll we believe that helping others is an important part of what we do. We are very grateful to everybody who has helped us raise funds for very important charities. This term staff, parents and children have supported several charities including Macmillan Cancer, The Poppy Appeal, Children in Need and Save the Children.

We also continue to support the Forest Hill Food Bank. This local charity provides help for local people who are struggling to cope and as a school we have made regular contributions. This Christmas we hope to donate another 100kg of foodstuffs so if you have any tins or packets of food you do not want please drop them in our collection box in the school reception.

### **Brent Knoll and Watergate Co-operative Trust**

The Brent Knoll and Watergate Co-operative Trust has continued to grow and develop. This year the Cooperative have been invited to join another Trust as a partner. Parkwood Hall School in Swanley are setting up their own Trust and have invited the BKW Trust to be a full partner. Thanks to everyone who supported our Cooperative Trust partners Widehorizons and Phoenix Housing by voting for their Space Invaders project in the Peoples Millions. Thanks to your help they were successful in winning the £50000 grant prize to improve public spaces in Lewisham.



**Merry Christmas and a happy New Year from everybody at Brent Knoll School!**

### **Important Spring Term dates:**

**The school opens for the Spring Term on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2015**

**The half term holiday will be from Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February**

**Parents Evening is on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March and the Easter Achievements Assembly will be on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March when the school will close for the Easter holiday at 1.00 pm that day.**