

Autumn Term Newsletter

The first half term of the year is always a busy one with our new pupils beginning their life at Brent Knoll. We have been delighted with the way they have settled and it has been great to welcome our new parents to the school community. This culminated in the primary department with our welcome class tea parties on Friday 14th October when many parents had the opportunity to meet each other and the staff. There has been a lot happening across the school including VIP visits, charity fundraising events and whole school developments.

Appointment of Interim Headteacher

The school governors are very pleased to announce the appointment of Noel Gibb as the interim headteacher of Brent Knoll School from January 2017 following the retirement of Jon Sharpe at the end of this term. Noel has extensive experience as an educational consultant and school leader and has a particular interest in learning disabilities and autism. Noel will begin his induction after the half term holiday working alongside the school leadership team, taking on the temporary headship from January while the governors begin the recruitment process for a permanent replacement for Jon. We look forward to welcoming Noel to Brent Knoll.

Macmillan Cancer Care Coffee morning



Our recent coffee morning and cake sale raised over £300 for Macmillan Cancer Care. The coffee morning has become a regular event at Brent Knoll and gets bigger and better every year. Pupils sold cakes that they had baked and guests were treated to a performance by the Brent Knoll Big Sing and Sign Choir. The event was organised by Food Technology teacher Jo Wylie ably supported by school staff. Thank you to all of you who supported the event.

Parent Governors

There are currently two vacancies for parent governors on the school governing body. The governors meet each half term as well as being closely involved with the school leadership team. If anyone is interested in becoming a school governor Liz

Bailey, Chair of Governors, or Cassim Bakharia, Vice Chair, can be contacted through the school office for an informal chat and discussion about the role.

Sponsored ramble



A group of secondary children took part in a 5 mile sponsored walk through the Darenth Valley to raise funds for Children in Need. The event was inspired by the BBC TV programme Countryfile and gave our young people the opportunity to experience a walk through the Kent countryside while raising over £250 for the charity.

Miss World makes a return visit to Brent Knoll



Brent Knoll hosted another VIP visit recently when the school was visited by Julia Morley, CEO of the Miss World organisation accompanied by the current Miss and Mr World, Miss England and Miss Charity! They were here to see for themselves the new sensory playground equipment paid for by a £60000 donation from the Miss World charity Beauty with a Purpose. Our visitors were delighted to see how much the children enjoyed using the new equipment including a sound wall, echo game, trampolines and a sand pit.

Staffing News

We are delighted to announce that we have appointed two permanent class teachers for the primary department. Deirdre McCarron and Jenny Parrett will be our new full time teachers in Willow and Ash classes respectively. Jenny has been with us as Ash class teacher since September and we are delighted she wants to work at Brent Knoll on a permanent basis. Deirdre will be taking over the class teacher responsibilities for Chestnut class and we look forward to welcoming them both on to the team.

Brent Knoll Cares



At the latest Perry Vale Community Assembly meeting held at Brent Knoll a group of Year 10/11 students made a bid for a grant of £2500 to fund a community project to provide care parcels for local people in need. Brent Knoll was one of 14 groups making a bid for funding.

- We want to reach out and help members of our local community.
- We want to encourage our pupils to be 'Active Citizens' and to develop an awareness of their role in our local community.
- We want pupils to be involved in the creating and distribution of 'Care Packages' to members of the community who are less fortunate than others.
- We want to develop a feeling of community cohesion between the school and our local residents.
- We hope that this project will help develop our pupils' empathy towards others.

Watch this space for more information on the 'Brent Knoll Cares' project