



# BWI Governors' Newsletter October 2008



## Message from Chair of Governors - Tim Rollin

*"The start of a new Academic Year is always a time for new beginnings. For teachers and governors it is also a time when we look at ourselves and our performance over the last year or so and try to see where and what we can improve. One thing that is fundamental to the strength of any school is its Leadership Team of senior teachers, supported by a fully committed Governing Body. This term we are very pleased to welcome two new members of our Leadership Team, Miss Orlinska and Miss Van Vuuren. You will already know them as teachers of classes 6O and 2V, roles they will continue to perform. They will join Mrs Westbrook, (Headteacher), Mrs Voisey and Mrs Blake (Assistant Headteachers) in what is a highly motivated Leadership Team which is dedicated to providing your child with the best possible education, as well as to raising the overall OFSTED classification of BWI from 'Good' to 'Outstanding'. As Chair of Governors, I feel deeply privileged to be working with such a professional group of educators.*

*We also welcome three newly qualified teachers, who are at the start of their careers in Education and for whom we have high hopes. They are Miss Noel (Blue Class), Miss Taylor (2T) and Miss Parsons (5P). We wish them well and hope that all the BWI community will make them feel welcome.*

*Nor should we forget all those children and their families who join us for the first time this term. I hope that your time at BWI will be happy, instructive and fulfilling. Welcome!*

*And where would we be without our Parents' Association? This year has seen a number of changes to the committee, including the appointment of Allan Reid as the new Chair of the PA. The school is hugely grateful for the funds that you as parents and carers continue to donate to improve the resources of the school."*

## Key stage 1 and Key stage 2 SATs Results

We recently had our annual meeting with Mrs Westbrook, Mrs Voisey and our School Improvement Partner (external adviser) to analyse last year's SATs data. This relates to last year's Year 6 pupils (KS2) and Year 2 pupils (KS1). The meeting took place over several hours and involved looking at a huge amount of data. Nevertheless, below we have endeavoured to give you a summary of our findings:

**KS2 Results** - These were good. At level 4+ (this is the expected level) English, Maths and Science results were above LA (Hillingdon) and national results. At level 5 they were well above LA and national results. Our average point score is similar to our benchmark group of schools. SEN (Special Educational Needs) and EAL (English as Additional Language) children made good progress and our value added (ie progress from KS1 to KS2) is significantly up and above 100 in all subjects.

**KS1 Results** - These were also good. At level 2+ (this is the expected level) Maths, Reading and Writing were well above LA and national results. We were similar to our benchmark schools at level 2 and 2b but were slightly below at level 3. SEN and EAL children made good progress.

**Priorities for this year** - Each teacher has been given subject areas to focus on for their individual classes. In KS1 this is mainly to continue the progress in writing and in KS2 this is mainly to develop maths.

## Governing Body Membership

**Welcome** - We are very pleased to welcome Miss van Vuuren as the newly appointed Teacher Governor.

### We currently have a vacancy for a Foundation Parent Governor

Are you a parent interested in getting involved? Could you join our team of volunteers? To help you decide we asked Ed Stothard (BWI's former Chair of Governors) to explain about the role:

*"The role of a school governor is often not fully understood and yet it is one which has significant influence on the success of a school. Governors set the strategic objectives for the school, establish the policies and targets for achieving these objectives and review progress to ensure the school is on track to successful delivery of its overall aims and vision.*

*Quite a responsibility!*

*During my time as a governor of the school there have been times when I have had to step back to make sure there was a clear understanding of what is outside a governor's responsibilities. A governor is not responsible for internal organisation or the day to day management and control of the school; this is the responsibility of the head-teacher.*

*Having made this point it is absolutely critical that governors and the head-teacher work together in a strong partnership. This is particularly relevant to a Church school where everybody should place the service of others above all other considerations. Children must come first and what serves the needs of our children should drive everything that happens.*

*There is enormous satisfaction from being a governor and we are always seeking the help of people who are looking to contribute."*

*If anybody would like to have an initial discussion about getting involved please do not hesitate to contact Tim Rollin or Chris Porter via the governor's email address (See bottom of newsletter). Someone with accountancy experience would be very useful.*

## School Profile

**What is the School Profile?** It provides a standard format for schools to report annually to parents. It includes information about the school's performance and broader achievements, both in and beyond the classroom. The school profile sets out how well the school is doing, how its performance compares locally and nationally and its strengths and plans for improvement. To view BWI's School Profile please visit [www.schoolsfinder.direct.gov.uk](http://www.schoolsfinder.direct.gov.uk) . You will need to search by postcode to locate BWI and then click on 'School Profile'. It is worth noting that the profile is regularly being updated by us but the academic results are updated directly by the Dept for Education. *Please have a read - you may learn something new about your child's school!*

**Other News** - Thank you for all your responses to our 'What do you think' questionnaires in July, a summary of results will be put on the website after half-term. Also, many of you hoped to review the current Masterplan on the website and let us have your comments. **We would be grateful to receive any outstanding comments as soon as possible** as we are beginning to start the process to identify potential practices to turn the plan into feasibility studies. In addition, whilst we are sure you have encountered the newly installed entry system, we also used the summer break to renew the fire alarm system and upgrade the internal security system as well as providing additional storage for PE equipment along with a bike shed. Our thoughts are now turning towards the state of the mobile classroom in the front playground and the provision of a covered play area to fulfill the requirements of the Foundation Stage curriculum. We will also be monitoring the school's move to the 'creative curriculum'.

Governors can be contacted via the following email address:

[amarchant@hillingdongrid.org](mailto:amarchant@hillingdongrid.org) E-mails will be managed and forwarded by the Clerk of Governors.

All Governors have pigeon holes in the school office for correspondence.