

To Parents and Carers: YN – Y5

7 July 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

I am delighted to tell you that our Year 6 pupils have done exceptionally well in their end of Key Stage 2 SATs (Statutory Assessment Tests), and that we are all extremely proud of their hard work and great progress. Brunswick's provisional results in reading and mathematics compare better than those nationally, with 80% of our pupils achieving the expected standard in reading (National 71%), 87% of our pupils reaching the expected standard in Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar (National 77%) and 82% of our pupils reaching the expected standard in mathematics (National 75%). Our writing results have improved significantly, with 74% of our pupils reaching the expected standard (National 76%). This is considered to be in line with national figures. There has also been strong improvement in standards at the end of Key Stage 1 and in the Phonics Screening Check, in which 82% of children met the expected standard.

Whilst our Year 6 team has worked tirelessly to ensure our children are ready for the demands of secondary school, these achievements have not come about solely because of its efforts. It takes time to learn and practise the skills needed to reach the standards expected, so the work of all of their teachers, support staff and leaders must be recognised and celebrated. They also could not do it without you!

All the staff at Brunswick do their best to ensure there is an excellent climate for learning, and the children's attainment is evidence of that. As I have said before, the school performs better than many other local and national schools, despite the challenges it faces. One of these challenges is the well-publicised difficulties many schools, and particularly Inner-London schools, have with teacher recruitment.

It is normal and expected that staff move schools for promotion and to gain wider experience to develop their careers. What is unusual is the number of staff who cannot afford to remain in their posts as living and travel costs have increased sharply while wages have remained the same for 6 years under the current government's regime of Public Sector austerity, which is also affecting the NHS, Fire and Police Services. This has affected all Southwark Schools equally, and my colleagues and I have been recruiting systematically over a long period of time to ensure our schools have a full complement of teachers for September. I am delighted to say we have succeeded. The school has done well to recruit the number of staff it has as there are many schools nationally, in London and in Southwark that still have more than two teacher vacancies.



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Before I introduce our new staff we have some goodbyes to say for a variety of reasons. Roz and Mahnaz have significant family commitments that mean coming to Brunswick is no longer feasible. They have loved working here and getting to know you and your families, and we have loved working with them. They are both very sorry to be going. Ghislaine and Jack are emigrating – Ghislaine to Panama and Jack with his new bride to Canada. Miss Daniel is travelling the world. Miss Frain, Miss Green and Miss Barnett are moving to new schools for promotion and to be closer to home and Miss Goodman is going to work in the Independent sector. Amanda begins her studies full-time for a Doctorate in Educational Psychology. Mr Best and Mr Earnest were employed temporarily, and their contracts have come to an end. Finally, Mrs Russell-Burke is leaving teaching to pursue charity work, an opportunity she feels she cannot miss. She will apply her pastoral talents to rehabilitating offenders in prisons with the John Fashanu Charity Trust. I am sure you will join me in wishing them all the very best, and in thanking them for their contribution to the school and to the children's education and wellbeing. Though it seems hard to accept, this is the new normal, and Brunswick Park is no different from anywhere else. Richard Hunter, Brunswick's Local Authority Senior Adviser and a signatory to this letter, confirms this. We respond as best we can by being resilient, making the best of the current situation and continuing to take decisive action to fulfil robust and effective improvement plans to give the children the best life chances possible.

In so doing we welcome Sacha Patrick, Charlotte Bullar, Caroline Campion, Susanna Renwick-Joyce, Fiona Wright, Eleanor Brown, Dina Achilleos, Gwen Cook, Marcia Crow, Brooke Murphy and Jaspreet Hunjan to our existing staff team. You will be informed of where teachers will be working at Parents' Evening next week when you come in to collect and discuss your child's Annual Report, and the children will meet their new teachers on Thursday 13 July. I know you will make all of them very welcome.

Thank you as always for your continued support and encouragement to enable us to keep putting the children at the heart of everything we do. If you have any questions, please contact any of this letter's signatories.

Yours sincerely



Susannah Bellingham
Head Teacher



Pat Walker
Vice Chair of Governors

Richard Hunter

Richard Hunter
Local Authority Senior Adviser and Adviser to Brunswick Park Primary School