

Governors' Report to Parents 2016-17

Welcome to the second Cambridge Nursery Federation Annual Report to Parents. We are pleased to report that the two schools have worked collaboratively under the leadership of our Executive Head Teacher Amanda Bannister, particularly in developing a common assessment framework for our children and joint training sessions for our staff.

We are delighted to report to parents that Brunswick has continued to be judged as outstanding by Ofsted. Thank you to the staff for their hard work and parents for their support.

One of the highlights of the nursery experience is the opportunity for the children to access the foundation curriculum through the outdoors and the chance to develop their physical skills on the varied equipment in both gardens. The gardens are regularly used to extend story telling, mark making, mathematical exploration through counting and looking at shapes and at Brunswick sharing in the care of the rabbits Boris and Minnie. Walks to local community facilities including the library, the Buddhist centre, the Sedgewick Museum and the allotment have also been used to extend their knowledge of the outside world. Both nurseries are enjoying the Forest Schools experience.

The Cambridge Nursery Federation has continued to share good practice through their work as part of the Cambridge Teaching Schools. One exciting development is that both schools have offered two places to trainees on the new Initial Teacher Training course in the last year. We are delighted that all of the trainees are set to qualify as Early Years teachers in the coming weeks.

Our thanks also go the Friends of Brunswick and parents at Colleges for their excellent fundraising efforts during the year.

The Governors trust that you and your children have enjoyed being at Brunswick or Colleges and that you will take away many happy memories of the year with us. May we wish you well for the future.

The report summarises our work over the last twelve months.



A Learning Environment

Governors are responsible for the monitoring and evaluation of the School Development Plan to ensure that both nursery schools continue to develop and that we build on our current good practice whenever we can. We ensure that the first year of the Foundation Stage Curriculum is effectively planned and delivered by professionally trained staff at a level appropriate to individual children's learning.

The Governing Body has a Curriculum and Standards Committee, which meets termly to review the curriculum and to monitor through a series of in-depth visits the implementation of different aspects of the curriculum. In the last year we have looked at the use of the pupil premium, continuous provision and have reviewed the administrative structure.

Our aim is to make sure that the schools provide the very best of education for all the children so that when they leave Brunswick and Colleges they are ready for their new schools and for the challenges and experiences they will encounter.

Daisy Room - Colleges

The Daisy Room has continued to flourish offering places to two year olds. We regret that the forthcoming summer holiday club will be the last one to be offered due to declining demand.



Brunswick Integrated Care and Colleges Wraparound Care

There has been unprecedented demand from parents and carers this year. We hope that the flexibility offered by these services effectively supports your childcare needs.





Finance

The nursery schools are provided with an annual budget to cover staff, training, curriculum development and general building maintenance costs. The Management and Resources Committee, which report to the full Governing Body, monitor the finances regularly and a special meeting was held in May to approve the 2017-18 Budget.

One major concern to governors has been the decision by the Government to move towards an equalisation of the funding arrangements for all Early Years provision. Governors and parents have been actively involved in the campaign to promote the added value of nursery schools. We were, and remain, concerned that the distinctive features of the nursery schools, including the requirement that we have a Head Teacher and qualified teachers on the staff are in danger of being lost because of the new funding arrangements.

Thank you to the almost 30,000 people, including many of you, who signed the petition on the parliament website. The response of the government, before the 2017 General Election, was to promise that our current funding would remain in place for the lifetime of the then parliament until 2020 with a further review of state nursery schools. We are in continuing contact with the MP for Cambridge in order to establish what the new government's plans are for our high achieving and valued schools.



Events

There have been a number of events for children, parents and governors including:
 Pumpkin Party - Brunswick
 Christmas Fair - Colleges
 EAL Coffee Morning - Colleges
 Spring Fair - Brunswick
 Arbury Carnival - Colleges
 International evening - Brunswick
 Both schools have celebrated Chinese New Year, hosted 'Living eggs', Ark Farm and organised cake sales.



Staff

The Governors of the Cambridge Nursery Federation would like to thank the staff for their hard work, passion and persistence in striving to provide the very best for your children in the course of the year. Our skilled Early Years practitioners provide a happy and stable environment that enables the children to engage in enjoyable and purposeful learning that will give them a firm foundation for the future. Staff in both offices ensure that the schools run smoothly.

We have been very pleased in the last year to witness the continuing professional development of our two Deputy Head Teachers, Vicky Bliss and Gill Learmond as they have settled into the first full year of their new roles.



Governing Body

We are pleased that we have a full complement of governors. The full Governing Body, and its sub-committees, has met throughout the year and we have continued to partake in training courses including attendance at the County Council's termly briefing sessions and parent governors have attended the sessions for new governors.

Thank you to all our governors and associate members for their hard work during the last year and to Sonia Swindells our clerk.

Details of all governors and associate members can be found on the website of both schools.