

GOVERNOR NEWSLETTER

Coppetts Wood School and
Children Centre

Summer Term 2017

Welcome to the Summer Term Governor's Newsletter

Summer term is results term and once again, it was very encouraging to see how well Coppetts has done in comparison to the national average. The new curriculum continues to pose significant challenges, which makes the solid results all the more impressive. A great team effort by all teaching staff and the children themselves.

Towards the end of last term the governors reviewed and ratified the budget for both the school and children centre for the next financial year. I am pleased to report that both budgets remain in a healthy state for at least the short term. Longer term the financial situation does become more challenging as the Government implement the new funding formulae for schools and increased staffing costs start to have an impact.

To borrow a fashionable phrase there is no "magic money tree" and all schools will have to consider very carefully how they achieve a balanced budget in the future. The recent general election has delivered a very uncertain political climate and there are indications that this might lead to greater consensus and collaboration on key national issues like school funding. It would not be prudent to wait and watch for government policy to change, however, so the governing body will continue to explore options for increasing income and reducing costs.

The recent terrorist incidents in London have been unsettling for all of us who live and work here. It is inevitable that these incidents attract a lot of publicity but we should not forget the many positive examples of diverse communities doing life together across this great city. Nowhere is this better illustrated than at Coppetts where we enjoy many different cultures and traditions coming together with a common focus on learning and developing together.

This joint endeavor creates a culture that is inclusive and welcoming, and will eventually prevail over the narrow ideologies that fuel terrorist acts. This year's Summer fair was a wonderful illustration of the Coppetts community coming together. Well done to the team from the children centre and PTA for organising such a successful event.

The next academic year will bring fresh challenges but on behalf of the governing body I would like to thank all our staff for their hard work in ensuring another successful year for the school and children centre.

I hope that you and your family enjoy the Summer break and the chance to refresh energy levels before next term.

You can contact the governors via the school office or myself on brucemcgill@yahoo.com

Governor profile - Maria Brooks Labonne

I was appointed a parent governor in October 2016 and attended my first governors' meeting in November, when I was appointed to the Children and Community Committee and the Learning and Teaching Committee. I am also the link governor to Year 5.

I have two children at the school, Louis who will be going up to Year 2 after the summer holidays and Eddie who will be moving up from nursery to start in reception. Both of my children and their friends really enjoy being at the school, which I think is a wonderful testament to the caring environment that has been created here. All of the staff that I have met in person are extremely dedicated and I have been particularly impressed with how much the children seem to enjoy learning here.

I work four days a week as the media relations manager for a professional membership body, ICSA: The Governance Institute. Prior to that I worked for almost ten years for a French investment bank and then for the New York and European stock exchange NYSE Euronext before having my children.

I have lived in London for many years (the last four and a half of these in Muswell Hill), although I am originally from Leicestershire in the Midlands. I benefitted from a good, local state education, which gave me a love of learning. I particularly fell in love with French and went on to study French and Archaeology at university in Wales. I have both studied and worked in France and even went on to marry a Frenchman, so you could say that school set me on a path that would have a big impact on my life.

Great things can come from a positive learning experience and I hope that we all - parents, teachers and governors - are helping to create an environment at Coppetts that sets all children on a path from which they can flourish.

The Governor team

Bruce McGill - Chair of Governors

Miriam Gopaul - Vice Chair of Governors

Tom Mason - Chair of Finance committee

Heidi Southall - Co opted Governor

Liz Purkis - Chair of Children and Communities committee

John Timothy Kamara - Co opted Governor

Maria Anastase - Chair of Staffing committee

Grace Hussey - Co opted Governor

Mahnvir Singh - Co opted Governor

Maria Brooks Labonne - Parent Governor

Diana Roberts - Whiley - Parent Governor

Arjun Mittra - Local Authority Governor

Sarah Deale - Headteacher

Lisa Ruggeri - Co opted Governor

Julie Locke - Support Staff Governor

Faramade Alawaye - Non voting observer