

# BROOK BILLBOARD

**Term Dates 2023 –  
2024**

**Spring Term 2**

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February –  
Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March  
2024**

**EASTER HOLIDAY**

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March –  
Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2024**



**R.E.S.P.E.C.T**

**A WELLBEING MINDSET**

Dear Parents and Carers

There is some good news and, sadly some bad news in the billboard this year and we can discuss the issues more widely at the Coffee morning tomorrow.

**Firstly the good news.....** We are very privileged to have been donated a good as **new minibus** from Tottenham Hotspur. It is a big blue bus and was presented to us last week. This is an amazing gift as our children really enjoy going out on into the community on our school buses and it enriches their experiences enormously. The fleet that we have is showing its age and with minibuses costing around £50000 we were not sure how we were going to replace the one that has finally failed. Kingfisher class today met representatives from Tottenham Hotspur, had their photos taken and also had a ride on the bus. We are very, very grateful to Tottenham Hotspur for their immense generosity.

We will have some **chick eggs** being delivered into school shortly. They are ready to hatch within the two weeks that we have them in school and every class will get to see them cracking the shells and emerging from the eggs. The chicks come in a toughened glass incubator and we are very lucky that the Worshipful Company of Glass Sellers are sponsoring the experience. When visitors come to the Brook they are astounded by our amazing children's capabilities and by the commitment of all of the staff and very often they want to offer some support - sometimes monetary but sometimes giving their time.

**Now the bad news.....** we are having to close the **swimming pool** for some time as there are things that we need to do to make sure it is in top notch condition. This is not something that we wish to do because our children are totally focussed on swimming every week and find it hard to understand why they cannot. It is not just a curriculum loss though, it is a financial one too as we hire the pool out to external swimming groups and that makes an enormous difference to our ability to maintain it. I am sorry



that this means that there can be no Saturday swimming club nor swimming sessions in school for some time. I will ensure you are kept updated.

The biggest piece of bad news though is the school's **financial situation** and the impact that this will have. As you will know we are given money from the Government to run the school but the amount of money we are given has not changed for six years. With food prices, staffing costs, heating and lighting bills, cost of equipment it has not been possible for us to avoid going into debt. This does not mean we have been careless with our money - indeed, we have worked hard to keep costs down - but in order to run the school we have to spend more than we are given. It is also possible that the amount of money we are given for each of your children will be reduced too.

**What does this mean?** At the moment I cannot give you specific plans but it is likely to mean that we cannot offer some of the extra-curricular activities that we do now; that we may have less staff around the school; that we will not have enough resources for lessons; that we may not be able to cover sick colleagues and that holiday provision might be reduced. We will always want to keep our high standards and make sure our children are getting an outstanding education, but cuts in money will put that at risk.

**What can you do?** Let your friends and family know how difficult things are and that it is not because we haven't managed things properly - there just has not been enough money to go round. If you live in Tottenham you could write to David Lammy and tell him that you believe the current school funding is inadequate and will not allow an outstanding school to maintain standards, and you can join the parent group SENDPOWER who will be coming to our coffee morning tomorrow. I promise you that we will keep you informed along the way and share any good or bad news about our future situation.

Do come along to the coffee morning tomorrow - share news and build friendships with other parents and have your voice heard.

Best wishes from Maureen and the Brook staff



## Make a difference and become a Brook Parent Governor!

We are we are now seeking another parent to represent us on the Governing Body, if you are interested please print and complete the form at the end of this bulletin or email [maureen.duncan@thebrook.haringey.sch.uk](mailto:maureen.duncan@thebrook.haringey.sch.uk)

Deadline Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March midday

The Brook School charity is called:

The Brook Special children's Fund- help us build brighter futures

Charity number 280180

Bank account 65505207 Sort code 089299

If you shop online then **Give As you live** gives us a bit of money every time and **COSTS YOU NOTHING**.

You have to register first with Give as you live and then you go through Give as you live every time. Most shops, supermarkets etc have joined.

This is the Link:

<https://www.giveasyoulive.com/>

Thank you



## RED NOSE DAY



We will be celebrating RED NOSE Day on **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March**. It is a non-uniform day and children are encouraged to wear **RED**. We would appreciate a small monetary **donation** that can go to the Red Nose Fund (suggestion 50p/£1 but of course you can give more if you wish). Last year we got an enormous donation of lego from Comic relief to use in our classes so we have already benefitted from their fundraising.



They are a Parent Carer Forum, formally established in 2022 and are a warm and welcoming group of parents and carers of children and young people with SEND in Haringey. They support and share your views with Haringey council and other decision makers, with the aim to help improve services for all SEND children and young people in the borough. It is free to join and parents who are already involved think it is great.

SEND Power in Haringey will be coming to the next Brook coffee morning on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March, they will tell you a little bit more about what they do and how you can get involved.



# Brooksters Photo Gallery



*Brook and Willow pupils recording the BILC Community song proudly throughout the campus. The Children's Centre were part of the event too and the video will be available very soon... watch this space for updates!*





*Brook parents starting their CYGNET Autism awareness course, everyone is looking forward to learning more to support their children at home*







**Kingfisher Class accepting the bus donation from Spurs Football Club on behalf of The Brook School with Maureen**



Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Would you like to be our Parent Governor?**

We are very grateful to Fartun Ali for the excellent service she has given to the Brook as our parent Governor. Personal commitments have meant that she can no longer fulfil the role so we are now seeking another parent to represent us on the Governing Body.

#### **What does it involve?**

Our Governing Body represents both the Brook and the Willow and oversees how the schools are managing to cope with their budgets; makes sure that the children are getting the best possible education and are making progress; makes sure that safeguarding is carried out properly and that the building is properly maintained and that we are following Government guidelines and legislation.

There is a meeting every month – at present by zoom, but usually face to face – sometimes in the mornings and sometimes in the evening. All the information that is needed for Governors to learn about what will be discussed in these meetings, is available a week before to give everyone time to read it at their leisure. The term of office is usually for four years.

#### **Why is the role important?**

As parents, you want the best for your child and all children at the Brook. You will have a viewpoint and perspective that really helps us to make sure that we are offering the best possible experiences for our children. You are also somebody that parents can talk to if they don't want to discuss school issues with SLT straight away.

#### **How do I put my name forward?**

If you are interested in becoming a Governor then I, or a member of the SLT will always be happy to talk to you about the role. If you want to put your name forward then you can fill in the form at the end of this letter, or email me on [Maureen.duncan@thebrook.haringey.sch.uk](mailto:Maureen.duncan@thebrook.haringey.sch.uk). The closing date is midday **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024**. An election will be held if there is more than one candidate and all parents will be entitled to vote.

This is a really important role for the school and I look forward to receiving your nomination.

Kind regards



Maureen Duncan



### The Brook Special School Governor Nomination

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Class \_\_\_\_\_

**I would like to put my name forward to be a Governor at The Brook Special School**

*\*please write a short paragraph for each of the questions below to explain why you would like to do this role and a little bit about your skills and experience\**

**\*The reasons I would like to carry out this role are:**

**\*My skills and experience that will help me to do this role effectively are:**

