

Governors' Report to Parents 2015-16

Welcome to the first Cambridge Nursery Federation Annual Report. Our Federation came into being on 1 January 2016 following the decision of the Brunswick and Colleges Nursery Schools Governing Bodies to federate under the leadership of our Executive Head Teacher Amanda Bannister.

For you, the parents and carers of the children at Brunswick and Colleges we hope that the transition has been seamless and that your children have enjoyed the wonderful experiences that both schools have offered in the last year.

One of the highlights of the nursery experience is the opportunity of accessing the Foundation Stage 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, mathematical exploration through counting and looking at shapes and sharing in the care of the two Brunswick rabbits Boris and Minnie. Walks to local community facilities including the library, the allotment and a Chinese restaurant have also been used to extend their knowledge of the outside world. The nurseries have continued to share good practice with other nursery providers through working with the Cambridge Teaching School. One exciting development is that the first applicants for the new Initial Teacher Training for Early Years Teachers have been successfully recruited, including two of the Federation's staff who will begin their training in the autumn.

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.



Daisy Room - Colleges

The Daisy Room has continued to flourish and from September will be concentrating on offering places to funded two year olds. We are delighted that the holiday play scheme is thriving and that children from both nursery schools come together to access this facility.



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 English as an Additional Language at Colleges, the Use of the Pupil Premium, Special Educational Needs and an overview of the nursery day. 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 new challenges and experiences they will encounter.

Brunswick @ Buchan Street offered two and three year olds in Kings Hedges an excellent start to their nursery life. Sadly due to circumstances beyond our control, the Governing Body have made the difficult decision to close the Buchan Street provision at the end of 2016 summer term.

Thank you to the children, parents and staff who have made this a wonderful facility and all the very best to the children, parents and staff for the future.



Brunswick Integrated Care

Brunswick Integrated Care has seen unprecedented demand from parents and carers this year. We hope that the flexibility offered by Integrated Care effectively supports your childcare needs.

Finance

The nursery schools are provided with an annual budget to cover staff training, curriculum development and general maintenance costs. The Management and Resources Committee, which reports to the full Governing Body, monitors the finances regularly and a special meeting was held in May to approve the 2016-17 Budget.

We have joined with the other nursery schools in the county to make representations to the County Council about our concerns that we are not funded from within the schools budget and will continue to review the budgetary pressures that the nurseries are facing in the coming year.



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. The staff team are skilled Early Years practitioners who 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.

At Brunswick we are very sorry to be saying goodbye to seven members of staff, Debbie Stringer, Chris Okubo and Jessie Nisbet who will be retiring after many years at the nursery, Agnieszka Chaberska and Jasmin Ash who will be embarking on the new Cambridge Teaching Schools teacher training course and to Tracey Frost and Natalie Hodgson. May we wish all of them well for the future.

We are also pleased that Tracy Adams and Kelly Scholefield will be returning to Brunswick in the autumn term.

Events

There have been a number of events for children, parents and governors including:
Pumpkin Party - Brunswick
International Day - Colleges
Arbury Carnival - Colleges
Life Education Bus visit - Brunswick
Learning Bus visit - Colleges
Both nursery schools have celebrated Chinese New Year, hosted 'Living eggs' and organised cake sales.



Governing Body

The two Governing Bodies were individually responsible for the decision to federate that took place in January 2016, following which a new governing body came into being from the start of 2016.

We are pleased that we have a full complement of governors and that a number of governors who decided not to seek full membership of the new governing body have remained with us as associate members. This means that they can continue to share their expertise with us and attend all meetings but do not vote at full meetings of the Governing Body.

The full Governing Body, and its sub-committees, have 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. We were also pleased to appoint Sonia Swindells as the clerk to the new Governing Body in January 2016 and would place on record our thanks to her.

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

