

FROM THE HEADTEACHER

So as the barbeque that is this school year slowly extinguishes and the toasted marshmallow of the summer term bursts into sugary flames, we bid farewell to 2015-16. We have had another fantastic year with trips Fishborne Palace, Harry Potter World, Moors Valley, the Guildhall and North End library to name but five; our visitors have ranged from RNLI lifeguards to published authors; we have had discos, danceathons and dress up days...and in six short weeks, we will do it all over again!

Iain C. Gilmore

STAFF NEWS

The end of a school year brings with it a few changes to our staff.

We say a fond farewell to **Miss Parker** and **Miss Snowdon**. Miss Parker is moving to another school in the city where she will be working with special needs children and Miss Snowdon is leaving teaching to pursue another career. We also will be saying goodbye to **Miss Millson** as she starts her teacher training. We wish them all the very best of luck!



We welcome **Miss Ayling**, **Miss Stocker** and **Miss Wooden** who are joining us as teachers next year: we hope they enjoy being a part of the Brunel family.

JUNIOR ROAD SAFETY OFFICERS

Congratulations to our team of Junior Road Safety Officers who not only represented Portsmouth in the Champion of Champion event in Winchester but also won the title! They will be presented with a trophy very soon and we have arranged for a press release to go to local media to celebrate this amazing achievement! My thanks to Mrs Kirk for all her fantastic work with the school council and the JRSOs.



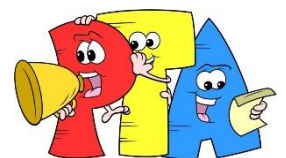
BUILDING WORK

Over the summer, the reception area will be refurbished making a dedicated space for visitors to the school that children will not walk through. There will also be a couple of new doors so like most schools, visitors will only get access to the main building when we want them to. There will also be some replacement windows being installed – you may have already seen the scaffolding at the front of the building. My usual thanks to the academy trust for their financial support with these projects.



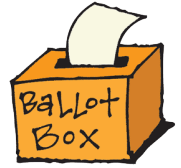
PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION FUND RAISING

Thank you to our wonderful PTA who organised a fantastic summer fayre this month raising over £700. This money will pay for a new water fountain in the east playground and the M&M Theatre Company. The PTA is always looking for new members to help: please speak to Mrs Abdul if you are keen to join their merry gang.



ACADEMY ADVISORY BOARD – PARENT REPRESENTATIVE ELECTIONS

Thank you to everyone who took part in the recent ballot to elect parent representatives on our Academy Advisory Board. Congratulations to Mrs Court and Mrs Baxter who were elected. My thanks to Mrs Herrall and our former parent governor, Mrs Wilshaw for standing and for their continued offers of support.



END OF KEY STAGE TWO RESULTS

An interesting thing happened a few hours before the SAT results came out: the Secretary of State for Education, Nicky Morgan, sent out a press release saying don't worry if the results are lower than last year because the tests are much harder and cannot be compared with last year. In addition to that, the NAHT published a letter to parents saying that this year's results can in no way be an accurate reflection of the quality of teaching and learning that is going on in schools.

This is very much the case at Brunel. We know the teachers do an amazing job and the children work incredibly hard – we get lots of people to check that for us - but the test results that came in last week were lower than we had hoped for putting us below national averages for the first time since 2013. The percentage of children reaching expected standard are 46% for reading (66% nationally), 89% for writing (74% nationally), 59% for maths (70% nationally) and 39% for children who reached the expected standard in all three subjects (53% nationally). You can see Nicky Morgan was right – even national results are low.



I don't think these figures reflect the true ability of our children – merely their success at sitting a new style of test that seems to be designed to catch them out wherever possible – but we are judged on them so we're already looking at how we can get back to national figures for next year.

In the meantime, we do wish our wonderful Year 6 children the very best of luck at their secondary schools.

LAST DAY OF THE SCHOOL YEAR

To remind you all that, as for the past ten years, we do not finish early on the last day of the year. The afternoon consists of the Year 6 Leavers' Assembly and it is important that all children play a part in this important milestone for our oldest children. School finishes at the usual time of 3:20pm.



DIARY DATES

Monday 18 July	Year 6 Chessington Trip	
Tuesday 19 July	Year 3, 4, 5 Prize Giving – 1:30pm	<i>Due to limited space, by invitation only</i>
	Year 6 Leavers' Disco – 7pm – 8pm	<i>Children must be collected please</i>
Wednesday 20 July	Year 6 Leavers' Assembly – 1:30pm	<i>All parents welcome</i>

2016-17 DATES

Autumn Term 2016 – Tuesday 6 September - Friday 16 December - Half Term: Monday 24 - Friday 28 October

Spring Term 2017 - Tuesday 3 January - Friday 7 April - Half Term: Monday 20 - Friday 24 February

Summer Term 2017 - Monday 24 April - Tuesday 25 July - Half Term: Monday 29 May - Friday 2 June

INSET days: 5 September, 31 October, 3 January, 27 February, 5 June

STOP PRESS...EARLY NOTICE OF NEXT YEAR'S RESIDENTIAL VISITS

YEAR 5 – THORNES BAY, ISLE OF WIGHT – APRIL - £157

YEAR 6 – GAVISTON HALL, HORSHAM – MAY - £179

LETTERS OUT FIRST WEEK BACK...IN THE MEANTIME GO TO www.in2actionschools.co.uk FOR MORE INFO