

Grasmere School

Annual Report to Parents

2008/9



Grasmere School: Annual Report to Parents 2008/9

| Contents | Page |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Staff at Grasmere..... | 3 |
| 2. School dates 2009 – 2010..... | 4 |
| 3. Grasmere’s Governors | 5 |
| 4. Teaching and Learning..... | 7 |

Updated Each Week: School Web Site

To keep up to date with all that is going on in Grasmere, check out the web site:

www.grasmereprimaryschool.org.uk

The site is updated on a weekly basis. Copies of school information, policies and class web pages can be viewed. Our thanks to Greg McNeill for maintaining it.

1. Staff at Grasmere

Head Teacher: Mark Derrington
Deputy: Ian McGovern

| | Teacher | Learning Support Staff | SEN Support Staff |
|-----------|-------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| Year 6 | Julia Williamson | Danel MacFarlane | |
| Year 5 | Rose-Marie Renne | Julie Leaff | Gemma Desantis Luigina Palmieri |
| Year 4 | Nadine Stuart Paul Jenkins | Raj Kaur | |
| Year 3 | Sheena Merchant | Dean Davis | Luigina Palmieri Dean Davis |
| Year 2 | Lena Scantlebury | Cressida Sparrow Pembe Hasan | |
| Year 1 | Debbie Ashton | Maria Soloman | |
| Reception | Siobhan Maguire | Samantha Dennis | |
| Nursery | Joanne Murphy | Katherine Reid (Nursery Officer) Janet Hasan | |

SEN Co-ordinator: Mary Deane
Learning Mentor: Pembe Hassan, Samantha Dennis
Music & Drama (PPA): Paul Jenkins, Nadine Stewart
Art (PPA): Mark Penkwith
Spanish (PPA): Lorena Prado

Office staff: Elizabeth Renton,
Patsy Greenidge

Kitchen Staff: Breda Bowen, Margaret Cook (Cook), Carmen Daley, Maria Goncalvas
Lunchtime Staff: Jean Rolls, Vim Denoo, Rahima Chawdhury, Sacha Greenidge, Clair
Armstrong, Pat Parsons, Raj Kaur, Pembe Hasan (Supervisor)

Site Supervisor: Billy Townsend
Cleaning: Valerie Willer, Margaret Cook, Donna Grant

Breakfast Club
Staff: Margaret Cook, Rahima Chawdhury

After School Club
Director: Samantha Dennis
Deputy Director: Danel McFarlane
Assistants: Katherine Reid, Dean Davis, Danny Denoo



2. School dates 2009 – 2010

Here's a good chance to make a note of these dates in your diary.

Autumn Half Term

Mon 26 – Fri 30 October

Christmas Holidays

Mon 21 December – Fri 1 January

Spring Term 2010

Mon 4 January – Thurs 1 April

BANK HOLIDAY Fri 2 April

Spring Half Term

Mon 15 – Fri 19 February

Easter Holidays

Fri 2 April – Fri 16 April

Summer Term 2010

Mon 19 April – Tues 20 July

BANK HOLIDAY

Monday 3 May

Summer Half Term

Mon 31 May – Fri 4 June

Next School Year 2010 – 2011

INSET Thursday 2 & Friday 3 September

Monday 7 September start of term

Monday 25 – Friday 29 October Half Term

Last day of Autumn term:

Friday 17 December

Monday 4 January start of Spring term

Monday 21 – Friday 25 Feb Half term

Last day of Spring term:

Friday 8 April term ends

Summer term starts: Tuesday 26 April

Half term Monday 30 May – Friday 3 June

Last day of Summer term:

Wednesday 20 July

3. Grasmere's Governors

We currently have 3 Local Education Authority (LEA) governors; 1 teacher governor; 1 staff governor; the Headteacher; 3 parent governors; and 2 Community governors.

There are two vacancies for 1 LEA and 1 Community governor.

Ruth Gladwin (Parent Governor, term ends 10/10) Ruth is the parent of Molly in Year 4 and Leah and Lillian at Stoke Newington Arts and Media College. Ruth is Chair of the Curriculum Committee and a member of the Finance Committee. Ruth is links Governor for Literacy, Modern Foreign Languages and Extended Schools.

Juliette Healy (Parent Governor, term of office ends 10/11) Juliette is the parent of Ben in Year 3 and is a member of the Resources Committee and link Governor for Creative Arts and Design and Technology.

Pauline Kinch Vice Chair (Community Governor, term expires 02/012)

Pauline is the mother of James who is now at Stoke Newington Arts and Media College. She is Chair of the Resources Committee and also a member of the Finance Committee. Pauline is the link governor for Science, Numeracy and HAGSA.

Julie Leaff (Staff Governor, term expires 02/12) Julie is a member of the Resources Committee.

Mary Leaming (Community Governor, term expires 03/12)

Mary is the governor with responsibility for Special Needs, Child Protection and a member of Curriculum Committee. She is the Special Needs Co-ordinator at Stoke Newington Media College.

Ian McGovern (Teacher Governor, term ends 12/09)

Ian is the school's Deputy Head and is a member of the Curriculum Committee.

Charles Osborn (Local Authority Governor, term ends 10/12) Charlie Osborn lives in Hackney and works for a digital agency. Before that he worked for a management consultancy that specialised in the public sector. Charlie is a member of the resources Committee.

Sharon Sullivan Chair of Governors (Community Governor, term expires 10/11)

Sharon is the mother of Hannah and Maisie who both attended Grasmere and are both now at Stoke Newington Arts and Media College and Liverpool University. She is a member of the Finance and Curriculum Committee and is the link for Special Educational Needs

Richard Tarrant (Parent Governor, term expires 10/10) Richard is the parent of Sam in Year 4 and Bob in Year 6 and James who attends Stoke Newington Arts and media College. Richard is a member of the resources Committee and is link Governor for Extended Schools, Health and Safety and Mathematics.

Dianne Tuckey (Parent Governor, term ends 03/12) Diane is the parent of Alex in Year 5 and Mia at Stoke Newington Arts and Media College and is a member of the Curriculum Committee and is link Governor for Ethnic Minority Achievement and Physical Education.

Susan Fajana Thomas (Community Governor, term ends 03/12) Susan is a member of the Curriculum Committee and is link governor for Ethnic Minority Achievement.

Oliver Watkins,(Local Authority Governor, term ends 06/2013) Ollie is a management consultant, living in Hackney and has extensive school volunteering experience.

Ollie is a member of the Curriculum and Finance Committee.

Mark Derrington, Headteacher, is also a member of the governing body

The Chair of Grasmere's Governing Body is **Sharon Sullivan** and correspondence can be sent to: Sharon Sullivan, Grasmere School, 92, Albion Road London N16. Other governors can be contacted via the school office.

The Clerk to the Governing Body is Elaine Petruckevitch and correspondence can be sent to her at: Hackney Technology and Learning Centre, 1 Reading Lane, London E 8 1GQ.

4. Teaching and Learning

The Creative Curriculum

In 2003 the Department of Education produced a primary school policy ('Excellence and Enjoyment') promoting a more creative approach, which Grasmere has enthusiastically adopted.

What do you like most about school?

"Trips, friends, after school activities and having to work in pairs" Year 6 boy

Love of learning Survey Summer 2009

Elements of the creative curriculum include:

Cross Curricular Teaching: Focusing more on how we learn rather than overload of content. Making learning relevant to children. During teacher's Planning, Preparation and Assessment (non-contact time) drama, music, art and Spanish is taught with a cross curricular focus. In addition Paul and Julia team teach alongside each teacher for half term blocked lessons developing the creative arts and literacy in a cross curricular manner.

Extended Curriculum: Offering children a greater opportunity to access a wider curriculum than the National Curriculum, such as Junior and Infant Clubs and the use of additional curriculum experts working within the school and work with 5 other schools in a local Primary Network.

Emotional Literacy: Building childrens' awareness of their own emotions and those of others to improve their ability to learn.

Philosophy for Children: It is designed to improve speaking and listening skills, valuing of other childrens' opinions and to build confidence in speaking in public.

Personalised Learning: Looking at different approaches to meeting each childrens' learning styles.

Extended Learning Groups: Focusing upon children's strengths and areas for development.

Mind Mapping: Mapping out thoughts graphically to help learning.

Brain Gym: Short lively activities to stimulate learning.

These will apply across the curriculum.

Extra Creativity

From September 2005 every teacher receives two hours a week out of class – under the government's workforce remodeling requirements.

Grasmere has taken this as an opportunity to increase provision in creative arts. Every child will have either Drama or Art in this two hours as well as additional Music or Spanish.

Create Arts Projects

Throughout the school year Grasmere ensures that all classes have access to a wide range of workshops and programmed activities to support the creative arts. Some of these activities have been generously supported by donations from FROGS.

Maths at Grasmere

Gifted and Talented children in years 5 and 6 attend a weekly maths lesson at Stoke Newington school this year. JP Morgan employees come in weekly to play maths games with high achieving children in Years 5 and 6

Ian also works with groups of children in classes from Year 1, upwards focusing upon extended learning with children of all abilities. Ian will also begin this year on a new initiative 'Numeracy Workshops' which provide children with individual targets and group activities which link with whole class sessions.

Maths intervention programmes run for years 1 upwards. These include Springboard and Number Recovery. Year 6 pupils also receive Booster classes in the spring term differentiated to group needs.

Grasmere Primary School is piloting aspects of the new Numeracy Strategy prior to its full implementation in September 2009.

What would you improve about your school?

"There should be a Book Character Day every week – it was fun." Year 2 girl

Love of learning Survey Summer 2009

Literacy at Grasmere

The Paired Reading scheme continues to be a great success. This involves a scheme where an older child reads with a younger child and a scheme by which parents are trained to work with all children. All pupils throughout the school participate in this.

Grasmere has separated aspects of the literacy hour in order to maintain pupils interest and motivation. Reading and phonics are taught as explicit sessions, with classes completing weekly extended writing sessions, to provide pupils with a better sense of achievement and opportunities for sustained concentration. The school has focused on early intervention within classes. Intervention programmes in literacy using 'Catch-up' programmes are working for all children using the resources of support staff, who have been trained to help with literacy.

A new pilot scheme called "Talking Partners" focuses upon enabling pupils to make accelerated progress with their speaking and listening skills which will enable them to structure sentences and use vocabulary more effectively in their writing.

The school has celebrated International Literacy Day, with children enjoying a carousel of activities. In addition the school has hosted a successful Literacy and Book weeks. There have been three very successful Book Fairs which raised money for books for the school in the last year.

All children in Years 5 and 6 participate in fortnightly Writing Tutorials with writing assessed and individual targets set for pupils which are supported by activities in class.

Stoke Newington Art and Media College have been involved with Year 6 in the summer term through a creative writing and film making programme.

JP Morgan employees are also supporting emerging readers with a mentoring project. The school recruited new parent volunteers for the 15 minutes a day reading programme, which has been very successful.

Within the last 12 months staff have been placing specific emphasis upon developing oral literacy to enable children to confidently express ideas to turn them into well structured writing.

Science

There is a science link with Stoke Newington in the Autumn term for children in Year 6 and some from Year 5. We also completed a very successful science fortnight during which all children were involved in exciting scientific experiments, rotation activities with other teachers, Family Learning Activities and participated in local visits.

Humanities: Geography & History

A successful humanities week took place this year.

What do you like most about school?

"Making new friends, we learn a lot, every Friday we get golden time" Year 2 girl

Love of Learning Survey Summer 2009



ICT

The programme of replacing the ICT suite's hard drives in progress with classroom computers being upgraded to cope with the demands of ICT and use of programmes. The school is also employs a part-time technician to ensure the equipment is fully maintained.

Every classroom is now equipped with an electronic whiteboard and teachers and support staff have been trained in their use.

Music & Performance

Paul delivers music lessons for all classes. His work develops skills confidence including a whole school production for the Winter Festival performance at the end of the Autumn term.

Years 2 and 4 took part in the Hackney Schools Music Festival in the summer.

Over 50 children performed in a very warmly received Music Concert in the summer, singing, playing instruments and dancing. This was sold out with over 100 parents attended and many warmly praised it.

All children were involved in performances for the Black History Month assembly. Every child is involved in their termly class assembly on Friday mornings.

Once again a programme of musicians coming into school is planned for this academic year with all children taking part in workshops. Year 4 will experience a taster scheme flute and clarinet being taught for half of the year each. Year 5 and 6 receive brass lessons weekly with five different instruments over 25 weeks, All classes participate in a weekly Music Assembly, with some whole school singing.

Paul also runs 3 choir sessions a week for Early Years, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 pupils with nearly 100 children taking part in these.

Art/Design and Technology

Each child has weekly art/design and technology lessons, with alternate half terms being taught by an art specialist.

In addition class visits to galleries and museums regularly take place. The school has now also established a programme of local artists who children will be working with in school or in their places of work. Children in all classes will work have worked with a professional artist for the day, with Years 3, 4 and 5 worked in more depth with an professional artists as part of their work with Stokefest and Proms In The Park.

The Innovation Projects

The school is involved in two innovation projects:

- Extended Schools Cluster
- Primary Network of Schools

Work with the Extended Schools Cluster has now been extended to involve more local Primary Schools (Grasmere, Betty Laywood, Grazebrook,, Homeleigh, William Patten, Sir Thomas Abney, St Mary's CE, St Mathias CE, Woodberry Down and Parkwood,) linked with Horizon special school and Stoke Newington Science, Arts and Media College and Skinners Company School. Its work is focused upon broadening opportunities for achievement of pupils and the local community, funded through the Neighborhood Renewal Fund. Work will include:

- Extending Counselling Services
- Health and Social Support (including early referral)
- Literacy and Numeracy classes for pupil and parents
- Parenting Education
- Extending provision at the After School Club
- Holiday activities
- Weekend residentials for pupils and parents

The Primary Network of Schools begins its fifth year. Unfortunately this year there is no funding but schools are looking at ways to continue collaborative work. Grasmere will work with Betty Laywood, Grazebrook, St Mary's C of E, Parkwood, Sir Thomas Abney and William Patten Primary and Horizon Special School. Its work will focus upon developing the creative arts through a cross curricular approach, with particular emphasis upon literacy. Funds will provide the opportunity for pupils and staff to work together on projects, research and workshops.

Work from last year provided pupils with the opportunity to work with an artist and poet, culminating in a Proms in the Park in July 2008 and a parade along Stoke Newington Church Street.

Library and Reading Books

Over a thousand pounds has been spent this year on increasing reading provision within the school, with particular emphasis upon texts for the library, group readers and for Key Stage 1. The school continues to subscribe to the Islington Library service for topic loans of books and artifacts. The new school library will open during Autumn 2007.

"I Loved it. We got to work with other grown ups and children in different classes." (Year 3 girl) Family Learning Afternoon October 2008

School Council

Each class selects two school councilors each term. Weekly meetings take place with Paul, which this year will be on Friday afternoons.

School councillors report back on a weekly basis to their classes on details of meetings. The school council has had impact upon influencing and implementing aspects of the school development plan. The school council had major impact on school meals, design of the playground and ensuring children get the clubs they choose.

Wednesday and Friday Clubs

Clubs are one of the most popular parts of the school week. Children get to choose from what is available and do each activity for half a term.

The clubs provide pupils with a wide range of sporting, craft, drama and ICT focus activities – and are in mixed age groups.

Last year children chose 6 choices and the School Council raised the issue that children were sometimes allocated a club they hadn't chosen. This year each child has made 8 choices, and will get 6 of those over the year. The current list is: Gymnastics, Football, Art, Cricket, French, Yoga, ICT, Italian, Cooking, Salsa, Ways With Wool, Recorders, Athletics.



