



October 2015

GOVERNORS' NEWSLETTER

This is the first Governors' newsletter as an outstanding school! What a journey we have been on over the past three and half years so we thought it would be a good idea to have a closer look at how we achieved the highest accolade from Ofsted.

Overview since March 2012

Eastbrook Primary School went into special measures in March 2012. Safe to say, it was a huge shock to a lot of parents who had been so loyal to the school despite all the changes and upheavals that occurred over the amalgamation of the three schools of Manor Hall First School, Manor Hall Middle School and Fishersgate First School in September 2008. However, one good thing about our special measures status was that the school started to receive support from another school and the Local Authority, so staff from a school in Waltham Forest in London called Hillyfield were drafted in to help improve the quality of teaching and the leadership and management of the school.

Once we went into special measures, government guidelines meant we had to become an academy. The Governing Body did a lot of research and held many meetings with regard to finding a sponsor and we eventually decided on the REAch2 Trust (Raising Educational Achievement for children) primarily because they only sponsor primary schools and they already knew the school through the Hillyfield support.

News of becoming an academy inevitably meant many staff changes. The Governing Body was also disbanded due to Eastbrook Primary School no longer being in existence and a more streamlined team was formed with different Governors offering a variety of strengths and skills to support the Head and staff.

We then became Eastbrook Primary Academy in September 2013, 18 months after going into special measures, with Julia Sherlock appointed as our new Head. Her first major change was to bring all our children onto one site. This was achieved in January 2014 after an eight week consultation period. It proved to be one of the best decisions in terms of improved behaviour and communication.

Then the real hard work began to create a thriving, achieving and progressive environment where children enjoyed learning, progressed well and achieved to their potential. The leadership of the school was strengthened and this strength cascaded down to the establishment of a highly effective and

inspirational team of teachers, TAs and other staff members. The hard work and dedication of all our staff resulted in some of the best SATs results two years running.

Then July 1st and 2nd 2015 was D-Day! Three Ofsted inspectors came in very early on both days for a thorough review and in-depth analyses of the five areas that are tested - Quality of Teaching, Leadership & Management, Behaviour & Safety of Pupils, Achievement of Pupils, and Early Years Provision. Eastbrook Primary Academy achieved Outstanding in the first four categories and Good in Early Years Provision. We are the only primary school in the local area to be Outstanding. We also understand we are one of the very few schools ever to have gone from special measures to Outstanding in such a short space of time.

It has been a long and challenging journey and while we want to celebrate our Outstanding status, we also know there is still so much more to do to make our school even greater. But we couldn't do it without your support, enthusiasm and loyalty to the school so thank you for sticking with us!

So let's celebrate with the...

...Grand Firework Display

We are holding our annual Grand Firework Display on Thursday 5th November this year from 5.30pm so I hope you have either already bought your tickets or are planning to do so very soon. Bring along friends and family as well for what promises to be a great night with different stalls this year and hopefully extra fairground rides.

Thank you to the PTA for organising the event again. Being an outdoor event, we are very dependent on the weather but even the downpour last year didn't deter people from flocking through the gates so we hope to see you there this year.

PTA Quiz

The PTA quiz is a week early this month due to half term so please come along and support on Thursday 23th October at 8pm at the Romans just opposite the school's main entrance. The pub continues to be very generous in donating the prizes so do join in if you can.

Have a great half term from all the governors at Eastbrook Primary Academy!