



From the Alexandra Primary School Governing Body

8th February 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

First of all, on behalf of the Alexandra Primary Governing Body, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a belated, but happy New Year!

As Chair of Governors, I would also like to update you all on some of the exciting developments both within the Governing Body and at school.

As you may recall, at the end of the last academic year, Joel Brookfield, who had been Chair of Governors at Alexandra Primary for many years, retired from the Governing Body. I took up the position and, since then, we have been very fortunate in recruiting two highly skilled new governors, Shaun Reeve and Din Mustaffa.

We do, however, still have an additional vacancy on the Governing Body and I would like nothing more than for that vacancy to be filled by an Alexandra Primary parent. Whilst we are lucky enough to already have two parent governors, Katie Tucker and Ahlisha Dixon, I believe there is a continuing, important role for parents as members of the Governing Body.

Haringey Council has recently launched a very exciting initiative to improve our children's skills in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) subjects. With this focus in mind, we would particularly love to hear from you if you have some experience in the STEM area and would like to be involved in the governance of the school. Should you have experience in any aspect of STEM, but feel that you do not wish to become a governor, we would nonetheless be very happy to hear from you, as we would appreciate the opportunity to utilise your knowledge in supporting the school in other capacities.

I am sure that you will agree that there have been lots of exciting new initiatives introduced into school over the last year. As the school's Link Governor for Maths I am particularly excited about the new maths scheme "Maths No Problem". Improving the learning and understanding of Maths is a priority for the school. I will shortly be visiting the school specifically to see the scheme being implemented and will be reporting to you on my visit in the next Governors' newsletter. I know that the school are also hoping to introduce sessions where you will be shown this exciting new way of teaching Maths.

The Governors were also introduced this morning to the school's new plans to introduce the Arts Council Artsmark Award. This will lead to innovative additions to the creative curriculum.

However, each year also brings new challenges. With the proposals for the National Funding Formula, budgets are getting tighter. The vast majority of our budget is

spent on staff-related costs; a very worthy investment, as it goes without saying that our staff are our greatest asset.

Unfortunately, at the end of last term, we lost Ms Ginty, who left us to take up a post as a Headteacher in another school. During the time she was with us, Ms Ginty had been a vital part of the School Leadership Team and we were sorry to see her go. We are, however, very happy to welcome her replacement and feel most fortunate to have recruited Mr Coggin, a highly experienced Deputy Headteacher, who joined us at the beginning of this term.

As I am sure you are aware recruitment is currently one of the greatest challenges facing schools, particularly in London and I know that the Senior Leadership Team at Alexandra are devoting a lot of time to recruiting for the excellent teachers and classroom support staff that your children deserve.

Both governors and staff continue to strive to provide the best provision available for the school, utilising the available resources. Much of this comes down to the detailed day-to-day management of all aspects of the school's activities, accomplished with great skill and imagination by Ms Dulay and her Senior Leadership Team. You will be aware of the specifics from the regular communications you receive from the school and, of course, the direct updates from your children.

In future, we intend for there to be at least one governor present at each Parents' Evening. This is an opportunity for you to meet governors and have an informal chat or raise any comments you may have as a parent relating to school governance. Comments received will be fed back to the Governing Body, whilst protecting your identity.

Last but not least, we are very proud of our new school website.

You can find us at alexandraprimaryschool.co.uk Please do take a look!

With kindest regards for an enjoyable and productive rest of term for you and your children.

Caroline Schloss

Chair of Governors, Alexandra Primary School Governing Body