



Dear Parents and Carers,

In this third Governors' Newsletter, I would like to reflect on the past school year and also look ahead as we grow stronger and continue to provide an excellent learning environment for our children.

#### **SITE UPDATE**

The issue that we would all like to resolve as quickly as possible is the site. We were all disappointed in April when the Council deemed the site at Havelock Recreation Ground unsuitable. The hard work of those who volunteered their time to canvass support, attend meetings and complete traffic surveys is appreciated by the Local Governing Body and Directors at the STEP Academy Trust

Since our last update, we can confirm that further meetings have taken place in June between the EFA, STEP and Bromley Council and the following key points have arisen:

1. The proposed site that was earmarked for LFA is no longer viable due to problems with access to the site and the impact on local traffic.
2. We will not have a permanent site to move into for September 2016.
3. The EFA, Bromley Council and Aquinas Trust have negotiated terms in principle to extend the presence of LFA at the current site up to July 2017, with additional classrooms made available to us.
4. Bromley Council has proposed a new permanent site. It would be a site for redevelopment rather than a new build. This site is within our original catchment area and planners have indicated its suitability for use as a school.
5. We cannot confirm the name and availability of this site until December 2015 as it is subject to a consultation process within Bromley Council.
6. On the basis that our lease at the current site is extended the EFA want to release the site at Westmoreland Road for development of a University Technical College by Bromley Educational Trust. The EFA have been told that LFA require assurances that our proposed site is fully supported before any final agreement regarding Westmoreland Road is made. We have also raised our concerns about the 'traffic impact' issues that have thwarted the Havelock and Hayes sites.

With the continued assistance of STEP we will continue to press the Council on this issue so that we can secure a permanent home. The Local Governing Body recognises the frustration caused by the time that it is taking for the Council to confirm our permanent home.

In the short term, we are happy that we can remain at the current site rather than moving to another temporary home as that would create unnecessary disruption for teachers, parents and, most importantly, the children.

#### **PROGRESS**

This first year at LFA has been an epic journey for us all. As parents we took a leap of faith to entrust our children to a school that physically did not exist. As parents we realised that this was not prohibitive. In fact, it provided a blank canvass on which Dr Chapleau and his team could bring to life their vision for the school.

We started with 60 students at the beginning of the term. Through our reputation the number of students has grown to over 90 during the course of the year. This is good, as it allows us to obtain more funding and better deliver our objectives.

Following the success of our open days, we have a full intake for our two Reception classes starting in September, with a substantial waiting list.

The parents who attended this meeting were positive about what they had seen at the open days at the school and it was evident that the children who attended the open days were genuinely excited to start LFA in September.

### **ACHIEVEMENTS**

Opening the school was an achievement in itself and is testament to the support of STEP, the founding parent group, Dr Chapleau, and his team.

Evidence of our achievements has come in many forms. Here are some of our highlights:

- Establishing an effective PTA that has organised various social and fundraising events
- LFA families helping each other and building relationships
- LFA families giving their time to provide an amazing garden for the children
- Reception children adapting to the challenge of starting school and all students developing confidence and an understanding of their world
- LFA students competing against other schools in Spelling Bee and 'Robots v Animals' competitions
- Strong uptake with extracurricular activities and positive feedback about our children from those running the clubs
- All students taking part in swimming lessons
- Charity fortnight, including our 'Live below the line challenge'
- Establishing links within the local community
- Holding our first Sports Day

As Governors we are still learning through the challenges that have arisen this year. We value your input and believe that the strength of our school lies in the continued support and communication between the LGB, the teaching staff and parents.

On behalf of the Local Governing Body, we would like to thank you all for your support during this first year. We wish you all a well-deserved summer holiday and look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September.

Please, also keep the evening of **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September** free for '*Last Night of the Proms, First Night at La Fontaine*'.

If you have any queries or suggestions, please email us at [carol.fagan@stepacademytrust.org](mailto:carol.fagan@stepacademytrust.org).

Chris Stevens, Vice Chairman

On behalf of La Fontaine Academy's Local Governing Body

