

24 July 2013

Dear Parents and Carers,

Yet another year has drawn to a close in a flurry of performances, parties and presents. All the staff have worked tremendously hard to support the academic and spiritual growth of our children and must be proud to see the next generation blossoming as a result of their dedication, encouragement and kindness.

The Queen's School Vision Priorities

This year we asked all parents, staff and governors to review the school's Vision Areas and to give feedback on where they thought the focus should be in the next year or two. The feedback we received confirmed that the areas identified as part of the original vision setting process are still priorities for members of our school community.

The feedback indicated that areas of particular strength for the school include the strong Christian ethos that underpins everything we do and the wonderful opportunities for music and performance. These areas will be prioritised and protected, with appropriate resource allocated so that they remain integral to school life.

Pursuing excellence in Learning and Teaching will be our highest priority in the coming year. The staff and governors are committed to ensuring that every child fulfils their potential and there will be changes to support this. The most able children must be challenged, children who have specific difficulties must receive appropriate support, and we must ensure that each and every child is making good progress, by careful tracking alongside targeted challenge and support.

Moving through our 'Whole Child' agenda, our primary priority next year will be sport. Work has begun on assessing where we are and identifying clear targets so we can measure progress. curriculum PE, extra-curricular activities and competitive sport will all be reviewed and changes made where this is beneficial to the children. The aim is to improve the experience of sport for all children in the school.

The governors recognise that in order to deliver on these priorities and make real, measureable progress, we need to support and value our staff, who work so tirelessly in the best interests of the children. We are committed to getting the balance right between setting high expectations and recognising and valuing the contribution staff make to achieving the very best for the children at The Queen's School.

We will keep you updated on how we are progressing in these areas through our regular communications but if you would like to know more at any other time, please do ask. We will only achieve our ambitious aims if we work together.

Priority Schools Building Programme

Last year we were told that The Queen's School would be part of the Priority Schools Building Programme. A working party of governors, staff and parents with relevant professional skills and experience was formed to prepare for the scheme. We have just been informed that our projected start date has been brought forward by six months. We have also been told that our project will now

be 'capital funded'. We don't yet have any more information but hope that capital funding will make the project both simpler to manage and quicker than the alternative (PFI Funding). We hope that we will be able to start planning the project in the coming Autumn Term. This phase of the project is likely to take at least a year, so any building work would not start before summer 2014 at the very earliest. As soon as we know more about the timetable and the scope of the work we will let you know.

Our priority is to ensure that any disruption to the children at the school should be kept to an absolute minimum. You can find out more about the PSBP here:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/adminandfinance/schoolscapital/priority-school-building-programme>

Summer Building Works

We will still have at least two years in our current accommodation and we need to make sure it is safe and suitable for our children. Over the summer work will be carried out on the drains, which will hopefully help to reduce the winter flooding problems we have experienced in the past. In addition the old IT suite will be redesigned to make two rooms suitable for teaching small groups or individual children. This will reduce the amount of teaching and learning taking place in halls and corridors, disrupted by passers-by.

Very sadly, the beautiful Cedar tree that has been such a feature of the back playground needs to be chopped down over the summer as it has become unsafe. The school is hoping to reuse the wood from the tree to make benches and play equipment for the children and we hope to purchase awnings to provide shade in the infant playground.

Parents and the PSA

Thank you to the PSA and everyone who helped with the fantastic school events this year. The Summer Fair was a triumph – a fun day for everyone and a very successful fund-raiser. Thanks in particular to Janet Coyle and her team who have led the PSA with such energy and enthusiasm. A special thank you to Alison Armstrong and Michelle Jones who are handing over the reins after long stints on the committee.

We really appreciate all the help and support that parents give to the school - not just in fundraising (although the money you raise is vital) but also in the time and care you give to improving the school environment and supporting the children's activities and learning.

Staffing Changes

This year we said goodbye to two very longstanding members of staff – Mrs Judge and Mr Gillespie, we would like to thank them for their many years of dedication to the children at The Queen's School. We welcome back Mrs Sharp and Mrs Lisney from maternity leave and offer Miss Demetriou very best wishes when she heads off on maternity leave during the Autumn Term. A very warm welcome to Mrs Suffee who joins us a full time teacher.

Congratulations and good luck to Mrs Stroud, Mrs Lisney and Miss Wilson, who take up their new posts in the autumn term as Acting Deputy Headteacher, Assistant Headteacher / SENCo and Phase One Leader respectively.

Governors

There will be a great deal of change within the Governing Body next term:

Will Cavendish resigned at Easter, having given several years of valuable support to the school, including a period as Chair of Governors. A new Foundation Governor for St Anne's is being sought to replace Will. At the start of the autumn term Eleanor Garland will end her four-year term as Foundation Governor for The Barn Church. Her replacement is in the process of being appointed.

In November two of our Parent Governors, Susie Conner and Jan Deykin, will reach the end of their four-year term and there will be an election for their successors. If you are interested in becoming a Parent Governor, information is available on the website or you can contact me through the school office. I will write again at the start of the Autumn Term with details of the election process.

A full list of all the governors, an explanation of the Governance structure of the school, and minutes of meetings can be found on the website.

You can contact the Governors via the school office or through the school email in box:

governor@queens.richmond.sch.uk

On behalf of all the Governors may I wish you and your family a very relaxing and happy holiday.

With very best wishes,

Bonney Venning

Chair of Governors