THE LEA PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY

15th July 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

As we approach the end of the school year, now is a time to review the year and celebrate the efforts and achievements of all the pupils and to thank all the dedicated staff who go above and beyond each day to help them. It has been a challenging but successful year, and all the governors, and I'm sure all of you too, would like thank the staff for working tirelessly throughout this academic year.

We started this year with Mrs Berry taking over as our head teacher and I, and all the governors, have been delighted to see that Mrs Berry and her team have continued seamlessly to maintain the same high standard of education and care that the school has become known for - with excellent academic progress scores, another year of great KS2 SATs results, a fantastic array of external visits as well as wide ranging sports, music and drama opportunities. To name a few, pupils have been involved in:

· singing at the O2,

· school plays,

· cricket, rugby, rounders, football matches and tournaments,

· sponsored walks,

· Watching hockey at the Olympic stadium

· Learning resilience with BMX Mike

· Paralympic week and using sports wheel chairs

· Maths competitions

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We are lucky to have a wonderful, dedicated and experienced staff team; congratulations to those who are moving on in their careers as well as those who are retiring. These moves have given us the opportunity to hire Mrs Moustapha who will be joining the team in September and is looking forward to getting started.

At Christmas we also said goodbye to two long serving members of the school community with critical, but perhaps less visible roles to children and parents; Caroline Glover the school business manager (SBM) and Sue Stevens, most recently Clerk to the Governing body. It has been wonderful to see Susanne Fawkes take over as SBM and also to welcome back Katie Coxon as Clerk - Katie was previously at the Lea and designed the school badge!

Repairs to the hall from flood damage, overseen by Caroline Glover, were completed during August 2023, in time for the start of the autumn term, but the ageing infrastructure has continued to add to the challenges this year with a gas leak and water leak during the year - my huge thanks to Susanne Fawkes for working weekends and late into the evening to ensure disruption to pupils from these events was minimised.

We also have had a whole new PTA team. Thank you to you for taking on the vital roles of raising funds to support school projects and continuing the wonderful close-knit sense of community the school has an enviable reputation for - our ever-more stretched budget means the PTA fundraising has been vital to the school.

As volunteer governors, we will be continuing all the usual work behind the scenes next year, but also have a priority to be increasingly visible to staff and parents - something which is always a challenge to balance with work commitments, but that we understand is rightly an important part of our roles.

It has been my privilege to serve for a brief period as Chair of Governors of your school, I hand over to Emma Murphy and Tristan Ashman as Co-Chairs and I will be remaining on the governing body.

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I wish you all a wonderful summer holiday when it arrives and am excited to follow all the achievements of pupils next year.

Best wishes

Paul Goodwin

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