

Woodford Green Primary School
Sunset Avenue, Woodford Green
Essex IG8 0ST
Tel: 02085041629
E-mail: school@woodfordgreen.waltham.sch.uk
Website: www.woodfordgreenprimary.co.uk



WGPS
Work Grow Play Succeed

Headteacher; P J Prince
Deputy Head: Charlotte Linden

May 2018

Dear Parents,/Carers,

I am writing to you as Chair of Governors, on behalf of the Governing Board, to tell you that we are currently *considering* an important decision about the future of Woodford Green Primary School.

Since last September, Woodford Green has been working closely with Davies Lane Primary School, an outstanding 'teaching school' in the south of the Borough. Davies Lane Primary School is part of the Arbor Academy Trust.

Governors and senior staff have always understood that small schools such as Woodford Green can be vulnerable and harder to sustain than larger primary schools. For these reasons, we have sought opportunities to work closely with other like - minded schools. The current collaboration with Davies Lane has been widely considered as beneficial in supporting the leadership and management of our small school and in raising pupil attainment and progress. Our Ofsted Inspection Report last December said that, 'The benefits of this partnership can be seen in pupils' work in their books and the raised expectations of what can be achieved.'

As a result of this collaboration, levels of attainment for all children of all abilities have increased whilst we have still maintained the small school environment which allows us to build the confidence of our children. The school has been able to share resources including training and leadership opportunities for teachers, strengthen specialist roles including those of Special Needs and phase leadership and standardise policies, giving the leadership team more time for developing the school and engaging with parents.

At an additional special meeting of the Governing Board last week, Governors agreed to *consider* the possibility of formalizing the collaboration with the Arbor Academy Trust via academisation. That is, supporting Woodford Green Primary School to become part of the Arbor Academy Trust.

This is not an easy decision and the process involved is long and complex. It is important to us all that, above all, Woodford Green retains its ethos and individuality. As part of their decision, Governors have considered those things about Woodford Green Primary School that they will want to keep. Our 'Non Negotiables' are:

- Our sense of community;
- Having a welcoming, approachable 'small' school ethos with a unique family feeling, and being non-religious;
- Being a school which is nurturing and able to focus on individual children;
- Having strong parental involvement;
- Keeping an integrated nursery;
- Keeping a local Governing Board with parent and staff representation;
- Being keen to work with a school which is open minded about key in-school structures/policies and which share our values;
- Being keen to work with other local, geographically close, primary schools;
- Retaining Teachers' Pay and Conditions.

This is a process in which we are keen to listen carefully to the views of staff and parents before we make this very important decision.

For that reason, Governors would like to give parents the opportunity to ask questions and voice their views and opinions at this very early stage. Governors will be at school on **Wednesday 9th May at 9.00am** to meet with parents. Tea and coffee will be available. We urge you to come into school to speak to Governors so that we are able to represent parental views in this important decision.

This process is still at an early stage. Governors have not made a final decision. If we move forward with this process, there will be a formal consultation on the decision and other opportunities to meet Governors and put forward your views.

We will keep you updated on the decision making process as we move forward. We look forward to working with you, as ever, and in the best interests of all the children at Woodford Green.

Yours faithfully



Candice Dwight
Chair of Governors

