

Dear Parents and Carers,



SUCCESSFUL OPENING OF HEATHFIELD ACADEMY

We would like to start this edition of the Governors' Newsletter by extending a warm welcome to Heathfield Academy, the latest school to join STEP Academy Trust. In September, Heathfield Academy became the seventh school to join STEP, opening its doors to 26 new Reception pupils in Croydon.

Over the last six months, STEP has restructured its Governance across its seven schools and has now paired schools according to need and experience. Given that Heathfield Academy is starting in a similar position to that of La Fontaine Academy last year, as a brand new school on a temporary site, La Fontaine Academy and Heathfield Academy have been paired together. We hope there will be enormous benefit to both schools and already the Headteachers are working closely together in offering support and experience.

We would also like to welcome Heathfield Academy's new Parent Governor Yvonne Aryeetey, who was recently elected and will be joining the Governing Body of Heathfield and La Fontaine Academies.

HEATHFIELD ACADEMY AUTUMN TERM HIGHLIGHTS

Our Christmas production, which was attended by every family, was a fantastic end to an extremely successful term. It highlighted the confidence that the children have gained in performing to an audience. They were all able to stand up, sing songs and speak confidently to their families and friends. This was quite an achievement after only 1 term in school!

The children's swimming has ensured that all children have now experienced what it is like to be in a swimming pool and they have amazed their teachers with their confidence and progress in the water.

Many exciting visitors have supported the children's learning this term. During the topic on 'People who help us' the children had visits from a dental nurse, a bus driver, Battersea Cat's and Dog's Home and a Road Safety Officer.

After school clubs have been very popular. The children have been working hard in ICT club accessing paint, maths and number programmes. They are even learning to create their own iPad Apps! The children have been working enthusiastically in LEGO club too and there have been some real masterpieces!



LA FONTAINE ACADEMY AUTUMN TERM HIGHLIGHTS



The autumn term has been a term of growth for both Heathfield Academy and La Fontaine Academy. At La Fontaine pupil numbers have grown from 94 last year to 155 this year, and staff numbers have increased to 25. Welcoming many new families into the academy's growing community has been one of the highlights of this term.

Parents and children have been active in a number of charitable events this term from the first collection of clothing, bedding etc. for Syrian Refugees at the beginning of term to Children in Need, the Harvest Collection for

Syrian Refugee Crisis and Breast Cancer Awareness – Pink Day when all children and staff were invited to come to school dressed in pink to raise money and awareness.

Creativity Week was a chance for children to produce some work inspired by various artists, Henri Rousseau, Jackson Pollock etc., and they had a great time reflecting on the importance of using their knowledge and skills creatively. Parents and carers were invited to the special exhibition space at the end of the week to see the children's work displayed.

Parent Coffee Mornings and Workshops have been held regularly and have been very well attended. These have included: Growth Mindset Workshop, Character Education Workshop, Mastery Workshop, and ICT & Computing Workshop. Resources from these workshops have been made available on the La Fontaine website for anyone to view (www.lafontaineacademy.org/workshops).

The PTA has been extremely busy as usual organising some very successful events. This term has seen the Parent Quiz night, the Halloween Disco, the annual Christmas Fair and the Mums Christmas night out. They have been fundraising tirelessly for the school to help with play equipment, musical instruments, school trips and have also supplied the La Fontaine Running Team with their running t-shirts for their first Cross Country event. They are always in need of volunteers and have their own website which can be accessed through the La Fontaine website.

And lastly well done to teachers and pupils for the fantastic results for last year with a 95% pass rate on Phonics screening check and above National Average end of KS1 Test results. Well done for all the hard work!



LA FONTAINE ACADEMY PERMANENT SITE

We know that many of you are anxious to know the location of the permanent site for La Fontaine Academy, as are we, but unfortunately we are not able to update you at this point. Thank you for being supportive and patient at this particular point – we know it is not easy especially if you are considering moving to be nearer the school. We will inform you as soon as we have an update!

STAYING INFORMED

We would like to remind you that information about your Governors, access to all Strategic Governing Body minutes and previous letters can be found on the Heathfield Academy website and the La Fontaine Academy website. If you would like to contact the Governing Body this can be done through the Clerk, details of which can be found on the websites.

In addition, all School policies, Pupil Premium/SEND/Sports Funding and Academy newsletters can also be found on the websites.

We would like to thank you for all your support and commitment to the academies, and we wish you a very Merry Christmas!

Eleonore Paxman, STEP Governor

On behalf of the Strategic Governing Body of La Fontaine Academy and Heathfield Academy