

GOVERNORS' NEWSLETTER – SUMMER 2017



DEAR PARENTS AND CARERS,

Here we are, at the end of the school academic year 2016/17 and what a fantastic and eventful year it has been!

As a Parent Governor, it is with great joy and pride that I can look back at the many achievements of the children across our two Academies. It is equally amazing how much has been achieved by the staff, parents/carers and governors in one year. The achievements extend from the academic, to the sporting and the creative projects and to the numerous fun and fundraising exploits of both La Fontaine and Heathfield Academies.

We achieve so much because we work together as a team and this is one of the greatest strengths of both schools. These achievements reflect the aspirational nature of our organisation and we will continue to Strive Together for Excellence in Partnership.



As you know, Dr Chapleau received our most anticipated phone call from OFSTED to confirm that the inspection would start the next day at La Fontaine Academy. The school was inspected for the first time on Wednesday 7th and Thursday 8th June 2017. There was great excitement in the air from parents/carers and governors and everybody was pleased that Ofsted were coming.

In our very first OFSTED inspection, we achieved good grades in most categories and, in its report, OFSTED rated La Fontaine Academy as a “Good” school overall. Some of the key findings highlighted the outstanding leadership and management at the school.

What Ofsted said...



“Leadership and management are outstanding. The headteacher provides calm yet inspirational leadership. He is ably supported by all leaders, governors and by STEP Academy Trust.”

“The headteacher is loved and respected within the community. As one parent said, “Not only does he want our children to have a good education, but he wants them to make the world a better place.”

“Pupils’ personal development is outstanding. This is a happy school. Pupils are friendly, highly articulate and confident. Their well-being and safety are the absolute priority of staff. Parents recognise this and are delighted with the work of the school.”

“Pupils benefit from a rich, broad curriculum, enhanced by the school’s specialist French teaching. The curriculum promotes pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development extremely well.”



The inspectors have thanked everybody for their participation in the process, their welcoming and positive manners. I would like to take this opportunity to also thank Dr Chapleau, the staff and the children, who again have proved to be a credit to all. I am sure that you will join me in thanking them all for their efforts in making our school a success.

We are privileged to witness our children grow and continue steadily on their learning journey. The revised curriculum continues to provide our children with a high level of challenge and expectations across the school. The 'Growth Mindset' approach is, however, providing them with a 'can-do' attitude towards learning and, as a result, we are seeing some very good progress. With the continued hard work and commitment of the staff, alongside your valuable support in learning at home, our children will be able to reach the high standards expected of them.

As a result, there have been some encouraging signs in the general progress of pupils with strong data highlighting children working above expectations. With strong emphasis now being placed on the progress made by children, it is certainly encouraging to see a number of children exceeding their expected targets.

STAFF NEWS

Congratulations to Madame Szczurek for a successful NQT year. She has played a sterling role as the Reception class teacher at the helm of Marie Curie class. She will be off on maternity leave with the birth of her first child very soon. We wish her all the best for her pending motherhood and would like to thank her for her significant contributions made to the pupils at La Fontaine Academy over the past year.

We would like to express our gratitude and contribution to Madame Safieh who is going back home to her family in Canada. We wish her well and thank her for her work here at La Fontaine.

La Fontaine Academy also says goodbye to Madame Mitchell who be joining brothers and sisters in another STEP Academy – David Livingstone Academy (much closer to home!). We wish her all the best of luck in her new role. Still being part of STEP, we will carry on seeing Madame Mitchell at times!



SITE UPDATE

Dr Chapleau has recently been in contact with officials at the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA). The ESFA are the funding arm of the Department for Education and they are the ones who oversee the renovation of our permanent site.

We recently have been informed that our permanent site would not be ready for September and that we would need to stay at our current site for an extra few months. We're hoping that our site will be handed over to us in January as we are all waiting patiently.

Over the coming weeks, extra classrooms will be made available to accommodate the extra two classes joining us in September. Further updates will be made available as soon as we receive them, and Dr Chapleau remains available to answer any questions you may have.



Heathfield
ACADEMY

Whilst it is onwards and upwards for La Fontaine Academy, so it is also with Heathfield. We never stand still and we are always looking at how we can improve and 2017-18 will be no different. In fact, it promises to be one of the most exciting years in our history as we are very excited to be moving into our permanent site in September. The children recently enjoyed a visit to the site, watched a crane in action and they had a tour of their classrooms. Back at school they were given opportunities to design their own playgrounds and these will be installed during the Christmas break ready for January. There is a buzz of excitement as we prepare to move into our very own brand new building!

Our community gets stronger and more ambitious every year. Our shared passion for the school's ongoing success really helps us as we work to realise our collective and collaborative vision of "Improving the life chances of all our children".

Our strong published data this year shows once more, an improvement for children working above expectations in the EYFS. Year 1 phonics screening was also very successful and we are very proud at how hard our children worked.



SPORTS DAY

We had an excellent Sports Day at the Croydon Arena! All of the children jumped, threw and ran their hearts out and we had some fantastic results. The children must be congratulated on their behaviour and energy throughout the afternoon - there was a real sense of team spirit, looking after each other and cheering one another on. It was also really lovely to see the children cheering and supporting their friends.

Let's not forget to mention that everyone enjoyed the parents' races and the tug of war trophy was awarded to the mums for the second year in a row!



STAFF NEWS

Congratulations to Mrs Vasiloudis for a successful NQT year and to Miss Mackay who will be stepping up as Assistant Headteacher in September. Our Office and Finance Manager, Kelly Edwards will also move into her new role as Business Manager. Another congratulations goes to Mrs Smith, our Learning Support Assistant, who passed her Higher Level Teaching Assistant (HLTA) course with 6 distinctions and will be working as an HLTA in Reception.

As you know, Ms Holland has been working across both of our Academies as our SENDCo and we are so grateful for the unwavering support that she has provided our children and families. Although she will not be working at Heathfield Academy from September, she will remain at La Fontaine and will still be working with us closely to ensure a smooth transition for our new Inclusion Leader, Miss Stewart.

We have no staff leaving and we are delighted to have made more staffing appointments over the past couple of weeks. This includes:

- Mrs Murray who has already started teaching in year 1 and will teach year two in September
- Miss Davis who will be teaching in year 1
- Miss Stewart who will be our Inclusion Leader
- Mrs Alleyne who will be an LSA in Year 2
- Mrs Suma who will be our kitchen assistant
- Ms Wiles who will be our caretaker
- Mr Quevedo who will be our cook
- Miss Johnston who will be our cleaner

Heathfield Academy is delighted to offer wrap around care for its children in the form of Breakfast club and Step Zone after school. They are well run and have become extremely popular with the children. The Step Zone children enjoyed our end of year celebrations by joining in with some archery lessons. We are also very proud of our after school clubs that we have been able to offer our children; street dance, multi-skills, Lego club, chatter books and French club are to name but a few. Our wrap around care has been a great success and has a positive growing reputation.



It has been an incredibly successful year at Heathfield Academy with many exciting trips and visitors. However our whole school trip to Hever Castle was the highlight of the last term. The children and staff had a wonderful time dressing up and seeing the grounds. This inspired a Royal themed graduation with 68 children being knighted by the queens in celebration of our second year.

We thank Mrs Brooks, Headteacher of Chestnut Park School, for their hospitality and for making us feel so welcome but are certainly ready to move into our own home!

VIVE LES VACANCES!

A great deal of what we do in school cannot be achieved without you and your co-operation.

We'd like to thank all our stakeholders for all your contribution and support throughout this academic year and look forward to September with renewed impetus, hope and aspirations.

Have a happy and safe Summer holiday and "Bonnes vacances"!

Eva Allotey, Parent Governor

On behalf of La Fontaine and Heathfield Academy's Strategic Governing Body

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR STRATEGIC GOVERNING BODY

WWW.LAFONTAINEACADEMY.ORG/SGB AND WWW.HEATHFIELDACADEMY.ORG/SGB