



Lauriston School



7th September 2021

Dear Parents & Carers

A very big welcome back to the start of term. It has been wonderful to have our children back into school, but also great for us to welcome parents and carers back into the playground once again. It makes such a difference to everyone to be 'business as usual,' and to be able to properly talk to you! The return to school is busy and pacy; each school has launched their School Development Plan and focus for the year which we will share with you in due course. There is a very evident positive learning vibe.

Daubeney and Sebright Children's Centres had their INSET Day on Monday. Suzanne kindly invited Mr. Hamlin (Assistant Head Teacher at Sebright) and me to present and introduce the new Early Years curriculum for our youngest children. It will be no surprise, but the children who have been with us since babies perform really well as they move through the school; their transition from the settings to the schools themselves is also very smooth.

We have been really pleased with parent attendance at our school **Meet the Teacher** events so far. These are important in, not only providing an opportunity to 'meet the teacher,' but to also hear about what is coming up for your child this year. If you have been unable to attend these meetings, the content will be available on our websites in due course.

If you are in Y1, you will know from your Meet the Teacher that we are launching a new way of working within the Year Group – Integrated Learning. This will improve the transition from Reception to Key Stage 1 but also massively improve the provision for the children in each class. Feedback so far has been really encouraging. If you missed the meeting, here is my rationale for introducing this to the Federation: <https://youtu.be/rLYUacMIikc>

Earlier this week, the Heads of School and I attended the Hackney Education briefing for schools. This included an update around the return to school and the loosening of Covid-19 restrictions. As you will know, the Government have a commitment to maintaining face to face education and minimising the disruption with children having to isolate. As expected, there was a decrease in the number of Covid-19 cases over the school holidays and encouragingly, Hackney has the seventh lowest number of cases out of the London boroughs. Each school has shared its new protocols with staff, and is prepared to deal with infections as they arise, and communicate the necessary information to you. Where possible, we hope to avoid temporary returns to bubbles, playground and lunch zoning and limiting visitors, but it is important we all work together. Please continue to share information with us and support each other if there are individual family issues. The loosening of restrictions will inevitably create some anxiety but we all have the same goal – to keep the children, and each other safe.

We have a few new faces and changes across the Federation. Working across the Federation we have *Amrika Lachmee* who will be leading on the OPAL Play initiative. At Lauriston, we welcome *Claudia Wichmann* as our new Finance Officer and congratulate Louise Corkrey on her appointment to Office Manager. At Daubeney, *Mr. Dharma* has become the new SENDCo and has already got stuck right in. He is supported by a new Inclusion Team featuring *Miss Prisca* and *Mr. Utz*. And at Sebright, we have welcomed back *Mrs. Burrows* and *Mrs. Islam* from maternity leave. We have also seen new roles for *Mr. Power* as Assistant Head and *Mrs. Tidey* as part of our Inclusion Team. The Big and VERY SAD news is that *Mrs. Couldridge* has decided to retire from her role as Office Manager at Sebright at the end of September. We will be saying much more about the lovely Denise over the next few weeks but wanted this information to sink in for now....☹️

You will recall the Governing Body agreed upon **The Blossom Federation** as our overall Federation name. This marks the start of another stage of our future development. I have asked the children for help to design our Blossom Federation logo/watermark. I have had some really lovely contributions so far.

And finally, a reminder to check our school websites and our social media for updates. You will see much more news content on the websites this year to showcase what the children are learning. We have our Federation Twitter and Instagram account **@BlossomfederationExecHT** and each school has their own individual Twitter page. **@DaubeneyHackney, SebrightPrimary and @LauristonSchool**

It is so good to be back! Stay safe and well

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robin Warren".

Robin Warren Executive Head Teacher