

## **Parent Council Wed Aug 30<sup>th</sup> 2017 - HeadTeacher report**

Start to the new school session has gone well.

School roll is now 555. 90 P1 pupils joined us along with 18 other children at various stages. We operate a team around a stage approach with class teachers, PSAs, students, supporting learning teachers and senior leadership providing appropriate support for all pupils.

### **Staffing**

We have already welcomed 7 new members of staff.

Debbie Neish	NQT	P1
Emma Henderson		P3
Cara Gordon		P4
Katie Sharp		P5
Joanna Millar	NQT	P6
Rachel Lynch		PSA
Meghan Joyce		PSA

and, following interviews this week, have two further PSAs joining us in the near future.

It is lovely to have Kirsty Martin, Jennifer Wilson, Seaneen Horan, Jackie Simpson and Amber Ashraf back on the staff following absence, maternity leave and sabbaticals. Huge congratulations to Natalie Curtis who got married in the summer and is now Mrs Mack.

Sadly, Cheryl Berthinussen has been absent as her Dad died very suddenly. I am hoping she will be back with us soon, as she is a great miss.

Caroline Kulcu and Brenda Johnson are also currently absent due to illness. We hope they will be fit and well to return to work soon.

### **Building improvements**

The P1 learning spaces are looking fabulous having been decorated, new flooring laid and new furniture purchased. The P1s are able to access all three rooms (literacy, messy and STEM) and the inner courtyard as well as using the secret garden regularly.

We spent a considerable amount of time decluttering and reorganising resources to make best use of the space that we have. Plans to transform the P7 learning spaces are in hand and it is hoped that the work will take place in the not too distant future. P2J have replaced some desks and chairs with bean bags and sloping boards and we are evaluating the impact on learning and teaching and pupil motivation.

### **Standards and Quality Report and Improvement Plan**

The standards and quality report for session 16 / 17 and improvement plan for session 17 / 18 have been submitted to the authority. A full copy of both, along with a parent summary will be issued shortly and will be available on the school website. The improvement plan sets out the main areas for school improvement in the session ahead and is matched with national and local priorities.

### **Pupil Equity Funding**

We received £72,000 of pupil equity funding. This funding is to support the closing of the attainment gap in literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing. The funding has allowed us to form a partnership with the Citadel (family support worker one day a week), provide the opportunity for identified pupils to attend therapy through art sessions, develop nurture space and nurture approaches, employ additional staff to support early level learning and wider achievement and purchases resources to enhance learning and teaching. Part of the funding requires measures to be in place to evaluate the impact of the approaches and we are considering how best to achieve this.

### **Session ahead**

The session promises to be busy and enjoyable with MADD about the 60s starting us off. This will culminate in the Trinity Music and Arts Festival – our very own Woodstock in the playground on Fri Sept 15<sup>th</sup>.

As the school building will be 50 years old this year we plan to hold a birthday party in the summer term.

Seats have been booked for all the children to experience live theatre at the Lyceum this Christmas. It has been several years since we had a theatre visit and whilst, unfortunately, we can't all attend on the same date, all the children will have the opportunity.

**Jacqueline Scott**

**Aug 25<sup>th</sup> 2017**