



St. Jérôme Church of England Bilingual Primary School

Executive Headteacher: Revd. Daniel Norris MBA NPQH

Head of School: Mrs. Elizabeth Walton BA (Hons) PGCE

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Monday 27th March 2017

Dear Parents,

I am sure that you will have heard on either the local or national news about the emergency closure of Pinner Wood School last week following an earlier incident of a sink hole appearing on their site. Pinner Wood School along with industry experts and the council believe that following further investigations it is not safe for pupils and staff to remain on their current site. This is a devastating and disruptive position for any school.

As a newly established school with empty classrooms, staff and governors were unanimous in their desire to offer to support Pinner Wood School in this emergency and I therefore made contact with them at the end of last week. Following a comprehensive discussion between our school, the London Diocesan Board for Schools, Harrow Council and Pinner Wood School, and having received assurance that there will be no adverse impact on the effectiveness of St Jérôme School, we have agreed that our school, St Jérôme Church of England Bilingual School, will host the Early Years and Key Stage 1 children (270 children) of Pinner Wood School for the summer term, until further arrangements can be made. We believe our offer of help sends a powerful message to the local community that we are a generous school who want to offer hospitality to those in need.

The council is now working with us to make the necessary arrangements to ensure that the children from Pinner Wood School can continue their education during the summer term. The council will be providing coaches to transport Pinner Wood pupils to and from our site and this will not impact upon drop off and pick up times for St Jérôme School. Furniture and essential learning and teaching materials will be brought from Pinner Wood School and their staff will set up the classrooms during the Easter holiday. The children from Pinner Wood School will be accommodated in the Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 classrooms on the upper floors of St Jérôme and will use the main hall, dining hall and playground on a rota basis; the children from the two schools will be separate throughout the school day. Our children will continue to have exclusive use of the EYFS outdoor area and the time they spend in the playground will not be reduced. There will be no changes to lunchtimes for St Jérôme children. The Headteacher, Mrs. Spruce, her senior team and staff from Pinner Wood School will manage the running of their school and will liaise closely with Mrs. Walton and I to ensure that there is a seamless operation of the two schools.

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We are sure that as a very popular school, graded Outstanding by Ofsted, the pupils from Pinner Wood will be excellent role models for our children. St Jérôme School will retain the classrooms that will be Year 1 and 2 and our French Resource Centre, that many of you saw at our official opening. Our building has been designed to accommodate 420 pupils, when at full capacity, and this emergency situation is going to enable us to verify in advance that everything is ready for our school to grow. Funding is being provided to ensure that all areas of the school are kept clean and well maintained and that our classrooms are returned to their current finished state prior to our children moving into them.

Arrangements for our breakfast and afterschool club provision will be unchanged.

I am grateful to the staff team at St Jérôme School who have been entirely supportive and are determined to offer a warm welcome to our colleagues. The staff team at Pinner Wood School have been moved by our generosity and it has brought comfort to them at a very difficult time. We will all be working hard to ensure that the summer term is fruitful for all of our pupils. Thank you in advance for your support and please do not hesitate to be in contact with Mrs. Walton or myself if you have any questions or concerns at any time.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Norris', with a horizontal line drawn through it.

The Revd. Daniel Norris
Executive Headteacher