



St. Jérôme Church of England Bilingual Primary School

Headteacher: Revd. Daniel Norris MBA NPQH
120 – 138 Station Road Harrow Middlesex HA1 2DJ
www.stjeromebilingual.org

Tel: 020 3019 6363 e-mail: office@stjeromebilingual.org



To: All Parents / Carers

Thursday, 21 July 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to thank you for your ongoing support and encouragement throughout the academic year. This school year has continued to be impacted by the challenges of the global pandemic but I am extremely proud of how our entire community has pulled together, to remain fully and safely open at all times and to ensure that we can begin the process of recovery and reestablishing the full community life of the school and maintaining as much consistency for our children as possible.

I am extremely proud of the staff team who have often gone above and beyond during periods of high levels of Covid related absence, travel disruption and have managed the challenges in the supply chain of resources, to continue to deliver our school's ambitious vision. Our governors have expertly supported us to navigate the considerable financial impact associated with the loss of income from our clubs and school meals during previous school closures and have worked tirelessly with members of the leadership team to maintain these important services, to keep the school open and continue to further the school's vision.

It has been good to begin to welcome parents, carers and friends back to school and to be able to hold community events as your participation in your children's education is important and our life together as a community is enriched by such opportunities to be together. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many parents who volunteer their time and expertise in support of the good of our community. A particular thank you to those parents who have led and supported our PTFA, those who have volunteered to support maintaining our grounds and garden spaces and those who have supported in school and on educational visits. Your contribution is greatly appreciated, thank you.

Despite the challenges of the year there are many successes of which we should be proud. It has been pleasing to see children at Saint Jérôme School continuing to enjoy their learning and making excellent progress across the curriculum. Staff have been supporting children to catch up learning where this has been missed and have continued to support children when it has been necessary for them to self-isolate. We are proud that 93% of our Year 1 children met the expected standard in phonics and this compares favorably to the average for children in Harrow of 80% and children nationally of 76%. We are also pleased that children in Year 2 performed in line with pupils nationally in mathematics and outperformed pupils nationally in reading and writing in end of Key Stage 1 assessments.

We are also extremely proud that 84 children in Key Stage 2 have achieved a DELF standard (French Government proficiency in French examination) and that we are the national winner of the Institut Français French Pop video competition for the second year running. The opportunities for children to learn musical instruments and perform have increased due to the launch of the school orchestra and choir and children have performed for parents, taken part in Harrow music festivals and performed at Harrow School. We have introduced swimming to the school curriculum and also begun opportunities for competitive sport and will continue to grow the opportunities available for PE and Sport next year.

As is usual at this time of the year we like to acknowledge staff members who are moving on from our team. We are sad that Miss Reynolds leaves us at the end of this term and is taking up a leadership post at an international school. Miss Reynolds has made an enormous contribution to the school, teaching Year 2 for the last three years and also completing a master's degree which included research in bilingual education conducted at the school. More recently she has been our English Curriculum Leader and worked with Mrs Cox to develop our provision of Early Reading, Phonics and Talk for Writing. We are also sad to say goodbye to Miss Rooney who has supported children with additional speech and language needs and Miss Bibby in the school office.

At the end of this term, Mrs Clarke will be commencing a phased retirement. Mrs Clarke joined the school in 2018 and since that time has opened and led Year 2, Year 3, and Year 5, she has been the Key Stage 2 leader, Mathematics Curriculum Leader and has mentored teacher trainees and Early Career Teachers. She is an excellent teacher and we are delighted that she will remain as part of the team supporting learning and teaching and an effective transition of the leadership of Key Stage 2 to Mr. Corson who has been appointed

Assistant Headteacher for Key Stage 2 and will lead the opening and development of Year 6 with Mme Renaudon next year.

In September we welcome 5 new members of teaching staff and 2 new members of support staff to the team, all of whom bring significant experience and expertise to the school as we become a full school. Our new teaching staff visited the school earlier this week to meet the children and to begin the process of transition for September. We are pleased to welcome Mr. Corson, (Year 6 Teacher and Assistant Headteacher for Key Stage 2), Mr. Mead (Year 4 Teacher) Ms. Rosenthal (Year 4 Teacher) and Mr. Shafiq (Year 3 Teacher) and Ms. Tantu (Year 1 Teacher). Miss Boateng Teaching Assistant in Key Stage 1 and Ms. Mitrousi Teaching Assistant in Key Stage 2. We are also pleased to welcome Miss Bainbridge Administration Assistant.

It is difficult to believe that the children who joined us when we opened the school in 2016 will be moving into Year 6 next year having completed 6 years of their primary education here. We look forward to welcoming 60 new children and their families to our school in September and it is good that our school remains a popular and oversubscribed school with waiting lists in most year groups. I believe that we should be deeply hopeful and optimistic about the future.

There remains much to grow and develop in our school, there will be further challenges to face but the commitment of parents, governors, leaders, the staff team and the children has demonstrated time and time again in our school's journey that whatever the challenges or circumstances we face, together we can achieve our ambitious vision and that we should continue to aim high in everything that we do. The time is now right to revisit our school vision, to reflect on the progress that we have made, the foundations that have been laid, the challenges that have been overcome and the successes that have already been achieved but also to identify how together we can make Saint Jérôme School a truly inspirational place to learn for every child now and in the future.

If you haven't yet been able to respond to our parent survey, I encourage you to do so, to tell us what is working well and what you would like to see for the future. Each and every member of our community are founders of this school and we want to ensure that your views as parents are considered in the future development of the school. I look forward to discussing this further in the new academic year.

Parent Survey 2022

In closing this letter, I offer my thanks and best wishes for a restful summer break and I offer a prayer, attributed to our patron Saint Jérôme.

It is our part to seek
God's to grant what we ask;
Ours to make a beginning
God's to bring to completion;
Ours to offer what we can,
God's to finish what we cannot.
St Jerome (347 - 420 AD)

Very sincerely,



Revd. Daniel Norris
Headteacher