



The Eliot Bank and Gordonbrock Schools Federation



Executive Headteacher: Mrs Kathy Palmer

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Head of School: Miss Maria Gilmore

9th September 16

Welcome back to Eliot Bank!

'Happy children!'

'Brilliant teachers'

'The whole ethos is terrific, our children love it here'

Parent comments July 2016

After some very busy days in school getting ready for the new school year, it was so good to see all the children and their families coming in on Wednesday. Everyone has been settling into their classrooms, getting to know their teachers and renewing their friendships.

To remind you about some of the new faces at school we have;

Miss Onuoha in Year 4

Miss Addelsee in Reception

Miss Strother in Year 4

Miss Parker in Year 2

Miss Poulet in Nursery

We also have some new support staff;

Ms Hackett in 1RV

Miss McKenzie in Nursery

We welcome School Direct students Mr Ray in 3RL and Miss Rolfe in 6MQ. Finally, Mrs Morris has returned from maternity leave and will be joining Mr Casey as a cover teacher.

Reading through the questionnaires that were filled in at the last parents' evening a few themes really stand out. One is a very strong feeling that the school is a strong and positive community with words like 'warm', 'welcoming' 'nurturing' and 'inclusive' being used many times. There is also a lot of praise for our pastoral care, our communication with parents and our visits and events. Everyone loved curriculum week! Comments about Parent Pay and the electronic booking system for Parents' Evening were overwhelmingly positive and we have already started looking into the suggestions you made to make it even better. As ever there were many, many comments about the fantastic teachers and the work we do continually to make lessons engaging and inspiring. Finally, over and over again we were reading the word 'happy'. This makes us very happy too! However we know that



there is always room for improvement and we take on board all of your questions, suggestions and comments. These contribute to the discussions we have at our weekly senior leadership team meetings and shape the work we do throughout the year.

One aspect which is often mentioned on feedback forms is school lunches. We did meet with Chartwells on a number of occasions last year. Over the summer they have made some organisational changes and we now have a new school chef. He has already made a very good impression on staff and children and we will work as closely as we can with Chartwells to keep a consistently high quality.

Trips are always mentioned on the feedback forms as a key feature which children and their families really value. The range and number of our trips for every year group is something we are very proud of. However we are noticing, and I'm sure you are too, that costs are increasing rapidly. One reason seems to be that as the places we visit have their own funding cut they have to pass the costs on to schools. So a workshop which used to cost, for example, £2 or £3 per child could now be £8 or £9 per child. Added to this is the cost of transport, which has also risen steeply over the past few years. Unfortunately, as our own school budget is under increasing pressure we are not able to subsidise trips to any significant degree. Having said this, I would like to reassure you that we have no current plans to reduce the number of trips we offer. However as time goes by we may need to think about what changes it would be reasonable to make, without reducing the quality of the children's experiences.

We are very pleased with our end of Key Stage results for summer 2016, which were achieved despite a lot of change and uncertainty. Early indications are that our results are well above the national average. Dealing with the new government standards and assessments was one of our biggest tasks last year. Senior leaders attended many meetings at local and national level and the changes were the focus of a good deal of our discussions and staff training. You may have read a range of reactions to the assessments in the media over the summer. At the moment it is not clear if there will be any more change this year. We will continue to do our best to implement the new standards with a priority of minimising disruption to the children.

The first edition of our newsletter will appear next Friday. And do look out for your Year Group letters with information about the Autumn term. In the meantime a few key dates for your diaries are attached.

We look forward to working with you and your children over the coming year.



Jenny Klein
Head of School



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Autumn term at Eliot Bank, some key dates

- Year 6 Secondary Transfer Meeting Wednesday 14th September 6pm

Year Group Introductory Meetings (all start at 3.30 and last up to 30 minutes)

Thursday 15th September – Yr 2

Friday 16th September - Yr 4 HC and GS

Monday 19th September - Yr 4 PB and CO

Tuesday 20th September - Yr 5

Thursday 22nd September - Yr 1



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- Open Morning Tuesday 18th October 9-10am
- Parents' Evening Thursday 20th October
- Half term Monday 24th – Friday 28th October
- Inset Day – Monday 14th November

The last day of the Autumn term will be Wednesday 21st December