

Dear parents/carers

## **Decision to halt Academisation process**

As part of our work on the proposed academisation with REAch2, the governors have continued to carry out due diligence to ensure that any decision taken about the future of Handsworth is the right one for our school.

As part of this process, we have worked to better understand the benefits of joining REAch2. Much of the more detailed information, including the financial benefits, could only be made available to us once we had made an application to join REAch2, and so was not made available before the start of the process.

As a result of this work, we have made the decision to stop the current process and this application will not go to the Head Teachers' board. We believe REAch2 shares our values and passion for primary education and the governors would like to thank them and in particular Sir Steve Lancashire for their time, commitment and transparency.

We wanted to let you know this as soon as possible because we know that many of you will be taking the time to reply to the open consultation or making arrangements to attend the planned meeting on Monday 16th July. Given we are halting the process this meeting will no longer be taking place and the consultation will be closed.

## **Next steps**

The financial constraints the school and the Local Authority are operating under are not going away and, whilst this may not always be visible, this does impact both financially and operationally across the school. The governors are clear that they will need to continue to explore all options for Handsworth in order to secure the best outcomes for our children. You can read more about the options we have already explored in our FAQ.

As a governing body, we have reflected on the strength of feeling expressed following the announcement that we were considering academisation. We recognise that we should have done more to engage with you as parents and the wider community about the challenges we face in ensuring Handsworth remains financially secure and thriving.

Over the next few months we will be taking steps to increase our engagement with all stakeholders and will look to draw on the considerable expertise within our community to do this.

Over the last few weeks, many parents have committed time to writing to us, reading the FAQ and attending meetings. We want to thank you; as we feel privileged to be part of the Handsworth school community and to share in the success of our children and staff.

Handsworth is a fantastic school, the children have had a brilliant year and as parents, you should be rightly proud of all they have achieved. As governors, we want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who works so incredibly hard for the School.

## **The Governing Body**

Alina Harris

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Gabriel Gottlieb

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Jill Augustin

Katherine Bromely

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Mary Wilson

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