



27th March 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

Redbourn Primary School update

The forthcoming Easter Break is a substantial transition point for Redbourn Schools, as well as a good time to recognise some important personal contributions.

Both schools have been through remarkable journeys and are now ready to embark upon the exciting transition to become Redbourn Primary School. To recap, the decision to amalgamate was taken with two clear aims:

- achieving greater educational integration across the Key Stages. As a Primary School we can aspire to consistent high standards and create wider opportunities for learning and development
- helping provide more financial stability. Shared resources and planning provide greater protection against risks to future education and schools funding

There remains much work to do, but since November's decision there's been considerable determination to lay the right foundations without impacting learning.

Recognising significant contributions

We would like to extend special thanks to Mrs Byrne, who has led Redbourn Infant and Nursery School through a period of fantastic achievement and progress. Consistent Ofsted reports highlight a School that's 'outstanding in every area', a stunning achievement when the standards required are so high. Hundreds of children have benefited from her enthusiasm and dedication, whilst her accomplished team have been supported and developed, and achieve amazing results in a truly exceptional environment. Congratulations to the whole team for the outstanding results.

Mrs Byrne's fine leadership will be missed by the children, parents, staff, the local Heads Consortium and by many in the education team at Herts County Council. We hope she continues to speak at national conferences inspiring others in early years.

We'd also like to recognise Mrs Burman for her work as Acting Head at the Junior School. She's continued to improve teaching and learning, maintaining the progress of the last few years and earning praise in the recent Ofsted visit. She and the team have made strides forward and should be congratulated.

Our School PTAs have already met together and are looking forward to a new programme of activity. With their continued commitment and more people to support and attend events, we are sure we can continue to provide the children with some exceptional future provision.

Additionally, the joint Parent Focus Group has also taken place. This will continue to be vital during this transitional period and we thank the class representatives for their honesty and feedback. As a Governing Body we are always keen to hear the parent voice, so this group plays a pivotal role.

Lastly, we're grateful to the Governors of both schools for their effort and commitment in the success of the transition. In particular, Graham Lane has led an Amalgamation Team which has worked tirelessly with HCC to ensure a smooth transition with minimal impact on pupils. Our thanks also to Lucy Eckley, who will be stepping down in the Summer Term, for her constant source of support, guidance and generosity for RJS over the years. We are looking forward to a strengthened Governing Body in the new term as we combine our talents and knowledge.

So, what will be different after Easter?

On Tuesday 17th April the children will return to the new Redbourn Primary School, when we'll welcome Mrs Sarah Hinchliffe as Headteacher. Mrs Hinchliffe is an exceptional Head bringing with her a wealth of experience and is looking forward to spending time with our children and meeting you over the coming months.

The school won't feel different initially. Although we'll refer to the current Infant School as the Lower School and the Junior School will be known as the Upper School, children will come back to the same teacher they had before the break, play on the same playgrounds and eat in the same dining hall.

Changes will evolve – some will be urgent and some will take longer as processes amalgamate but please bear with us whilst we try to make the transition as smooth as possible. As ever we welcome your feedback to queries.redbournprimary@gmail.com.

On the **first day back at school**, children should arrive to school in the normal way. Any late arrivals should sign in at their current School Office. If your child is collected during the day for an appointment or is ill, they should be collected from the relevant office. If you need to contact the school for any reason, you should call 01582 792341.

As we say a fond farewell to Redbourn Infant and Nursery School and Redbourn Junior School, we are delighted to confirm that we will be holding an **official opening** of Redbourn Primary School on **Friday 20th April at 1.45pm**. This will involve all our children, Staff and Governors whilst local dignitaries and press will also be in attendance, so **please join us** to celebrate the occasion. More details will follow after Easter.

It's a new beginning full of excitement, promising to be an inspirational journey in which you and the children will all be involved. We look forward to growing the successful new school with you.

Yours sincerely

Melanie Wooding Jones
Chair of Governors
For and On Behalf of the Governing Body