



Havana Road, Wimbledon, SW19 8EJ

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Dear families,

The governors of Wimbledon Park Primary School are writing to inform you of an exciting opportunity that has arisen for our school to support another local school, West Wimbledon Primary. West Wimbledon are currently without a headteacher for the new 2018/19 academic year. Mr Lufkin has been approached to be part-time Executive Headteacher of West Wimbledon on a temporary basis for one year, to support the school whilst a new, high calibre, headteacher is recruited. Mr Lufkin will remain headteacher of Wimbledon Park Primary School throughout this process. Merton Council are fully supportive of the project as are the governing body of West Wimbledon Primary School. The governing body of Wimbledon Park Primary School have also voted unanimously in favour of the project.

The partnership and appointment of Paul Lufkin as Executive Headteacher will commence from 1st September 2018 and will operate until the end of the academic year in July 2019. The role of Executive Headteacher is well established and has been used in other partnerships between schools in Merton in the last few years.

Practically the arrangement will mean that in the autumn term Mr Lufkin will work three days a week at West Wimbledon in order to get to know the school and to put various developments in place. Mr Lufkin's time can be flexible depending on the specific needs at each school at different points during the year and he will be available to communicate with both senior leadership teams daily. Mr Lufkin remains employed by Wimbledon Park Primary School throughout and will revert to being the full time headteacher at the end of the partnership. Wimbledon Park will receive an income from West Wimbledon Primary School to cover the costs of the leadership and teaching capacity required. This will ensure the arrangement comes at no cost to Wimbledon Park Primary School.

The governors and senior leadership team at Wimbledon Park see benefits to us as a school. Although much of the partnership will revolve around Mr Lufkin, several other key leaders and teachers will have opportunities to share their expertise with West Wimbledon. Wimbledon Park Primary School will directly benefit from this partnership, for example through learning about areas of expertise at West Wimbledon, and through the accelerated leadership development of Wimbledon Park staff. We envisage the project will further our ability to recruit and retain the highest quality teaching staff through increased career development opportunities.

As a governing body, we also feel that we have a civic responsibility to support other local schools where we can and to contribute to the development of the local education system in Merton. Wimbledon Park Primary School's journey of school improvement over the past years to an established, consistently high-performing school has been enabled and supported through learning from other schools. This project also fits well with our values and strategic vision to develop partnership working with other local schools in the longer term, both to keep learning from the good practice of others, but also for Wimbledon Park to share leadership capacity, strategies and knowledge to support development in other schools who are aspiring to reach their potential.

We are confident that the school's senior leadership team together with the middle leadership team will provide effective leadership and management of Wimbledon Park during the project. In the first instance, Lauren Clogg (Deputy Headteacher) will be the point of contact, supported by Lisa Kingsbury and Rachel Morgan (Assistant Headteachers) for the days when Mr Lufkin is not on the Wimbledon Park site. The senior leadership team and governing body will review this arrangement and communicate any changes. The leadership teams bring a wealth of experience and will continue to work very closely with Mr Lufkin to ensure the track record of continuous development and improvement is maintained at Wimbledon Park Primary School.

We foresee that the day to day running of the school will continue 'business as usual' and we will be closely monitoring this as a governing body. Should we notice any adverse impact on Wimbledon Park, we will act swiftly to rectify the situation. There is the opportunity for either school to end the partnership with 4 weeks' notice should the need arise at any point.

We will be hosting an information evening to provide further details and to give an opportunity for parents to ask any questions they may have about the partnership arrangement. We are also attaching an initial FAQ document that gives a more detailed overview of the project. The FAQs will be published on the website and updated over the next few weeks.

We hope that you will share our enthusiasm for this project and the exciting opportunities it brings for Wimbledon Park Primary School.

Yours sincerely

Emma Walshe and Susan Clucas
Co-Chairs of the Governing Body