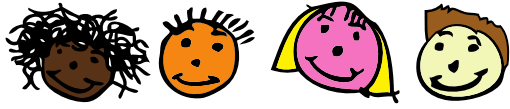


Bowes Primary School



Effie Demetriou - Headteacher

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28th May 2021

Dear Parents,

I hope that you are all well and looking forward to some lovely weather over the half-term period. We certainly deserve it!

I write to you today to give you some more details about the move of our children from the Southgate Green site to the New Southgate site in September 2021.

Space for the Additional Six Classes at New Southgate

Sarah Turner, CEO of the ELT wrote to you in January to inform you that our Nursery will be temporarily closing at the end of this academic year in July. This is due to the number of additional classes we will be accommodating on the New Southgate Site. We aim to open our doors again in the near future and very much look forward to welcoming our young community back at Bowes. Our original plan was for the Bowes Nursery to remain at our Southgate Green site, however this is no longer an option.

Our current Nursery building is beautifully designed as an Early Years Foundation Stage provision. Therefore, in September the two new Reception classes will relocate to where our current Nursery is and will run as a unit. The children will have access to their own outside area, in addition to the main playground area during the quieter periods of the day. To gain additional space in that building, the main office will return to the main building, where it was previously situated. This will result in the school entrance changing. We will give you more information on this closer to the time of the move. With our two reception classes moving, we gain four class spaces (each reception class currently has a 'workshop' in addition to their classroom). These four classes are all a good size and comfortably fit 30 children.

Bowes' Additionally Resourced Provision (Apple Class) will be relocating to Delta Primary School in September 2021. Delta Primary School is one of the seven other schools within the Enfield Learning Trust and also used to be 'Bowes Edmonton' before it separated from us in May 2018. Delta and Bowes still work in close partnership and share the same ethos. Our Apple Class children remain part of Bowes, but will be educated on a separate site. The Executive Headteacher of Delta (Paul Barraclough) and I have already started planning the move with support from the SENDCo, Annick Sudre. We have ensured that our parents and children have been fully informed of our plans to ensure the move is smooth and supportive. With this move taking place, the New Southgate site will have an additional room to accommodate the fifth class for the children joining in September.

The sixth class will take the space that Emerald Class have recently moved into.

Toilets

We shall be refurbishing some of our toilet facilities and there will be additional toilets installed on the top floor. There are toilets for the children and staff on each floor of the building.

Resources

All of the resources at the Southgate Green site, including libraries, learning equipment, tables, chairs cupboards etc will be brought to the New Southgate site after school closes in July. We have secured a credible removal company to take on this challenge.

The Transition

All of the class teachers will support the children at both sites and prepare them for the change in September. Most of the children at the Southgate Green site have already visited the New Southgate site from either being in the After School Club or taking part in lessons in the Art Hub/Steel Pans. They are familiar with the school building and many of the staff members across the Bowes community. In addition to this, the year groups have been brought together for our virtual achievement assemblies which are led by the Senior Leadership Team.

We hope to welcome all of the children from the Southgate Green site to visit New Southgate in the Summer term to further familiarise themselves with the school and possibly see their new classroom. However, this will all depend on Government restrictions at the time. We will be sharing more information regarding the transition closer to the time along with all the end of term arrangements.

The Local Area

There have been a number of questions regarding the monitoring of pollution levels in the local area. I can confirm there is a meter which reads the pollution levels in close proximity to the school. This is checked every two weeks by the Local Authority. The meter is situated by the A406, close to the small playground (off Stanley Road). Since I have been the headteacher of Bowes, the school has not been alerted that the levels have reached concerning levels. Pupils, parents and staff are actively encouraged to walk to school where possible, which is further supported by our pupil Travel Ambassadors.

Classes

There are no plans for the classes to mix, especially in the first year. This will ensure that the children feel comfortable in their new environment and they will remain with their friends. If the numbers in any particular class drop below a certain number, then we may need to look at how the classes are organised across the year group to ensure there is a fair balance. Should this happen, we will of course put the needs of the children first and the process will be carefully managed. Our aim is to excite the children for this upcoming change and defuse any uncertainty. The class names from both sites will remain the same for next year.

Space

Due to the pandemic, we have had to come up with alternative ways of running the school day to ensure all children are kept safe in their bubbles. We have become very creative with how we use our communal spaces, such as the hall and the outdoor area, to ensure all of our children have access to these facilities. I would like to reassure you that all the children will be able to have both their indoor and outdoor PE sessions as well as continuing to take part in various concerts, assemblies, music events and many more.

During the partial closure of the school, we were operating on one site and were fortunate to be able to welcome some of our children from the Southgate Green site onto the New Southgate site. The children adapted brilliantly to this change and settled very quickly into an environment and ethos that is familiar to them. They have met a number of new staff members and have developed good relationships with their year group peers. We are excited to have the opportunity to bring our staff and pupils together and are looking forward to the future stability we can offer our Bowes Community.

I will write to you again in the final half-term of this academic year with more details regarding the cross-site visits.

Your sincerely,

Effie Demetriou
Headteacher