



THE PEGASUS ACADEMY TRUST



WHITEHORSE MANOR
INFANT SCHOOL



ECCLESBOURNE
PRIMARY SCHOOL



WHITEHORSE MANOR
JUNIOR SCHOOL



BEULAH INFANT &
NURSERY SCHOOL



CYPRESS
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Executive Headteachers:
Mr M J Roberts & Ms L D Sampson

Head of School (Upper School): Ms G Buchan

Head of School (Lower School): Mrs A Hart

Wednesday 16th May 2018

Dear Parents and Carers of children in Blue class,

I write further to my letters dated 6th October and 7th December. It has been brought to my attention recently that there is a certain amount of discussion amongst Blue class parents about issues that have arisen in Blue class throughout the year. I should like to take this opportunity to reassure you and also to clarify certain Trust policies and procedures.

Firstly, I must acknowledge, once again, the disruption that you and your children have experienced over the course of this year due to the series of unforeseen changes in teaching personnel. Unfortunately, schools in London are in the midst of a huge recruitment crisis and it is becoming increasingly difficult for all schools, including Cypress, to recruit and retain experienced class teachers. That said, we are pleased that since January there has been relative stability within the teaching team for this class - with both teachers teaching the class on Wednesday mornings and attending planning sessions together on Wednesday afternoons. However, as a result of circumstances beyond the school's control, it is unfortunate that Ms. Haria has been absent from work on a number of occasions over this period. This has, of course, proved to be a further disruption to the class and we can only apologise.

Being mindful of the many changes that have taken place this year, The Pegasus Academy Trust will do all that we can to ensure that for the next academic year the class has a really strong class teacher.

I will now move on to address a number of queries that were raised last week at the parent communication working party meeting:

- 1. P.E.** Blue class participate in timetabled PE sessions on **Monday and Thursday afternoons**. Both class teachers have assured me that they do teach PE on those afternoons. However, they did say that they have not always got the children changed in to their PE kits. I have stated that going forward this must be done. To assist the teachers in this matter, can I please ask you all to ensure that your child's PE kit is kept in school all the time and only taken home to be washed in the holidays?
- 2. Homework.** At the end of the first week of this half term (Friday 20th April) all classes in Year 1 gave out a thematic homework sheet entitled 'Year1: Africa Topic Homework Ideas'. The following guidance was outlined at the top of the sheet: "Please find below suggested activities for project homework linked to our 'Africa' topic. Children are asked to complete at least 4 of the activities by the end of term. Please send all completed homework to school so that it can be celebrated in class." To reiterate: you and your child can choose which of the 11 activities outlined you wish to complete and when. All we ask is that 4 or more tasks be completed and handed in by the end of the summer term. I hope this clarifies the situation. We were pleased to hear at the working group that the children are really enjoying doing the activities set for them.
- 3. Feeding back about behaviour.** I should like to take this opportunity to reiterate that should one of the class teachers wish to feed back to you about a concern regarding your child then they should either ask you to step inside and wait until all other parents have left, or arrange a

telephone conference with you later that same afternoon. We do not encourage either teachers or parents to have these kind of confidential conversations while other parents are near at hand.

Please be assured that we are doing all that we can to minimise disruption to this class. We do understand that this has been an unsettling time for you and your child but please be reassured that we have always acted in the best interests of your child given the challenges we have had to overcome. I would urge you to come and speak with me directly should you have any further queries or concerns and I will do my utmost to address them.

Thank you once again for your patience, understanding and continued support in this matter.

Yours faithfully,

Anna Hart
Head of School

CYPRESS PRIMARY SCHOOL

21 Cypress Road, London SE25 4AU

Telephone: 020 8653 2618 Email: cypressadmin@pegasusacademytrust.org

Web: www.pegasusacademytrust.org