

Dear Parent/Carer/Staff,

**PROPOSAL FOR WOODFORD GREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL
TO JOIN THE ARBOR ACADEMY TRUST**

I write on behalf of the Trustees of the Arbor Academy Trust to update you on a proposal for Woodford Green Primary School to join the trust.

The Trust growth strategy

As you know when the Trust was established in September 2016 there were two founding schools, Davies Lane and Selwyn Primary Schools.

The benefits of partnership between the schools have been good, enabling each school to sustain and raise school standards and pupil outcomes. We have been able to develop our staff, enrich the curriculum and widen the opportunities for all children.

The status of Davies Lane as a *National Support School* and a *Teaching School* has meant that we are able to support other schools. This has enhanced the professional development of many of our staff, leading to better teaching and learning in our schools.

Trustees recognise that expanding the Trust through new schools will provide greater depth of resources and expertise and larger economies of scale but are also acutely aware that growth is also a risk if a joining school becomes detrimental to the Trust's success.

Support to Woodford Green Primary School

In July 2017 at the instigation of the London Borough of Waltham Forest, the Woodford Green governing body commissioned Davies Lane to provide school improvement support. It has been a successful collaboration with Woodford Green improving its pupil outcomes this year and securing a *Good* Ofsted judgement in November 2017. (In the report the impact of our support was flagged). Equally, our staff, including myself, have learned much from working with colleagues at the school.

Working with Woodford Green Primary School has also given us the opportunity to get to know the school's Headteacher, staff, children and governors. The more time the schools have spent together the more convinced we are that the Arbor Academy Trust and Woodford Green share important values, principles and beliefs about how best to enable every child and member of staff to fulfil their potential. In short, the school would be a real asset to the Trust.

The proposed plan

Our trustees have agreed in principle that Woodford Green Primary School can join the Trust, having carried out a thorough due diligence.

Woodford Green governors have agreed to join the Trust, subject to consultation, which will run until Monday, September 24th. Only the Woodford Green parents and staff are being consulted about joining an academy, our schools are already part of our Multi Academy Trust MAT). A final decision will be made by both parties in October 2018.

The effect on Davies Lane and Selwyn

In many ways there will be little immediate effect on our schools. Our pupils will continue to be taught by the same teachers in the same classrooms as now. They will be able to access a wider range of resources and opportunities as we develop more Trust-wide programmes and activities.

Next Steps

We will keep you informed of the final decision but if you have any questions or concerns about the proposal, please do contact me directly via email primary@selwyn.waltham.sch.uk.

Yours faithfully,

Maureen Okoye OBE

Chief Executive
Arbor Academy Trust
National Leader of Education