

Bellwood Site
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A Love of Learning for Life.

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Executive Headteacher: Claire Purcell
Head of School: Judith Lambert

Thursday 14th November 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to you to share some significant updates regarding the future of Ivydale Primary School. Over the years, Ivydale has been dedicated to creating an outstanding learning environment across both of sites. However, like many schools, we are currently facing financial challenges due to shifts in pupil numbers and rising costs.

To ensure we continue to deliver a high standard of education for every child, we have been working closely with the Local Authority to explore options that will optimise our resources while enhancing the learning experience for all current and future pupils.

Proposed Changes: Published Admission Number (PAN) Reduction and Site Consolidation

After thorough consideration, and in collaboration with the Local Authority, we are proposing a consultation process for reducing our Published Admission Number (PAN). This change will facilitate the consolidation of Ivydale Primary School onto the Bellwood site, alongside relocating the Children and Family Centre services. We believe this move will create a vibrant and cohesive environment for our school, with the project expected to be completed by September 2026. Until the necessary enhancements at Bellwood are finished, we will continue to operate from both the Inverton and Bellwood buildings.

By consolidating onto a single site, we aim to:

- **Create a more unified school community:** Bringing all pupils and staff together in one location will strengthen our sense of community and foster a more collaborative learning environment.
- **Enhance Facilities:** The Bellwood site offers the potential for excellent facilities, including expansive outdoor spaces and opportunities to create new specialised areas for subjects such as computing, design and technology, and early years learning. **Southwark have agreed to fund a large-scale investment to upgrade and modernise Bellwood.**
- **Ensure Financial Stability:** Operating on a single site will reduce maintenance costs and eliminate the duplicated non-staffing expenses, allowing us to focus on enriching educational programs and supporting pupil enjoyment and success.

Invitation to Parent and Community Information Session

We invite you to join us for a Parent and Community Information Session to discuss the PAN reduction consultation and the consolidation to Bellwood:

- **Date:** Thursday 21st November, 2024
- **Time:** 2:45 pm or 6:00 pm (Please choose whichever time is convenient for you)
- **Location:** Bellwood

During this session, we will cover:

- The reasons behind this PAN reduction and transition to one site, and the benefits for our pupils.
- Planned upgrades and adaptations at Bellwood to ensure a smooth transition

- Details of the consultation process and how you can provide your valuable feedback and further questions.

Next Steps

This is an important next step for our school community, and we want to ensure that every voice is heard. You will have several opportunities to share your thoughts and feedback:

- **Google Form:** We will share a link where you can submit questions following the information session.
- **PAN Consultation:** This will be managed by the Local Authority, and we will share the details of this process when this goes 'live', later in November.
- **FAQs:** By the end of the autumn term, a *Frequently Asked Questions* document will be available to address common queries and themes raised during this process.

We are committed to maintaining transparency throughout this process and to working closely with our families to ensure the best outcomes for our pupils and community. While a similar proposal has been considered in the past, we assure you that this project is distinct. The school and local authority have collaboratively developed this plan to best address our unique needs.

This is an exciting time for Ivydale, and with your involvement, we are confident we can build a strong future together.

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to discussing this important initiative with you.



Claire Purcell
Executive Head teacher



Judith Lambert
Head of School



Lynne Gravatt
Chair of Governors