



Cuckoo Hall Academies Trust

Cuckoo Hall Lane Edmonton

London N9 8DR

19 January 2019

Dear Parent/ Carer

How we are making school improvements – meetings with parents

I wrote to all parents and carers at the school just before Christmas about an online story which named Woodpecker Hall on a list of schools that underperformed in 2018 in our first ever Year 6 SATs exams.

Although these disappointing results followed what was a very good, recent report from Ofsted, we responded by taking action to put in place a whole series of measures to ensure standards improve across the school. This action plan is being led by our new, experienced head teacher, Sharon Parson, and her team.

We recently organised meetings for parents to come into the school to discuss what we are doing and to listen to their views. I was pleased to be able to meet and talk with many of you personally. Thank you also to everyone who sent in comments via email.

I am aware that it can be difficult to attend meetings, so I wanted to summarise what was discussed and how we are moving forward in partnership with our parents.

Key points:

- We explained that we took fully responsibility for the results and understood parents desire for the school to learn the lessons from last July's SATS results to ensure we achieve much better outcomes this year;
- We described the review we had conducted of why the results were not as good as they should have been, identifying key areas where the school as a whole needed to improve, and the plan that we had put together;
- We explained the significant changes to the leadership of the school that had taken place, bringing in new senior staff who have delivered impressive exam results and outcomes for children at the different key stages in other schools;
- We set out how we were Investing heavily in the children's future, with additional staff, bringing in expert support from outside the school (including a Maths consultant), establishing smaller

class groups for our year 6 cohort, and having various, targeted interventions to get the children to where they need to be;

- We explained how we are giving greater emphasis to Maths and English, through programmes such as 'Inspire Maths' and a new dedicated English Language and Literacy scheme for the whole school. Our head teacher said these were already having a measurable, positive impact;
- We highlighted how Years 2-5 were being given more specialised homework covering reading, writing, spelling and grammar (and asked parents to support us by getting the children to complete their homework).
- We described how better assessment systems have been introduced, so we now know more accurately how the children are doing throughout the year. This is key to identifying what additional support they need;
- We explained how we are working with more external partners – including other schools and the local authority - so they can help us improve our teaching and learning;

Other issues

Parents also asked us to communicate better with them, especially around the progress of their children and what they were learning in school.

We also agreed to examine how we can engage better with parents who are unable to attend meetings in the school.

We encouraged parents to talk more often, when they could, to their class teachers.

Reading with your children

I was instrumental in launching the Read Aloud campaign across all the schools in our Trust. There will be new reading initiatives coming soon and I asked our parents for their support in getting involved at home reading with their children. All the evidence shows children who read with their parents do much better in all subjects, including Maths.

Finally, I want to assure every parent that myself, Sharon Parson, and every single member of staff is doing everything we can to ensure that all children at Woodpecker Hall succeed and achieve their maximum potential at each key stage.

If you have any comments, questions or suggestions, please get in touch with us at woodpecker@chat-edu.org.uk

Yours sincerely

Marino Charalambous

Chief Executive Officer

Cuckoo Hall Academies Trust (CHAT)