



WOOLGROVE SCHOOL

Special Needs Academy

Pryor Way, Letchworth, Herts, SG6 2PT

Tel: 01462 622422 Fax: 01462 622022

email: admin@woolgrove.herts.sch.uk

Web: www.woolgrove.herts.sch.uk

Headteacher

Mrs Lisa Hall



12th June 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

OPEN EVENING AND PLANNED SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS

This year for the first time we have decided to try something new by holding an open evening here at the school. The school will be open to pupils and their families/friends from 4.30pm to 7.30pm to drop in and the idea is that you arrive any time during the three hours and have the opportunity to wander round the classrooms and outside areas. Staff will be on hand for you to have a chat with and you can look at all the wonderful displays of the children's work, explore all the classrooms and spend some time getting more of a feel for the school. We have also invited the parents of the new children joining us in September. There will be activities in each room for the children to do and I hope you have an enjoyable evening.

Having been a head teacher of two mainstream schools and being a parent of two children myself I am very aware that it is more of a challenge for parents at a special school to have opportunities to "drop in" to school so we are hoping that these sort of events will help. Our new cook, Michelle, and a representative from Herts Catering will be on hand to offer you samples of some of the delicious school meals and some of our governors will be present to meet you and answer any questions you may have about their role.

This year has been a busy year in many respects and the staff have been working really hard to improve the physical environment of the school. So far we have filled nearly three skips full of rubbish (!) and there has been a flurry of tidying and de-cluttering of stock cupboards, classrooms and corridors. Earlier in the year Red and Purple classes and the infant sensory room were redecorated and had new flooring installed, the infant cloakroom was repainted and the library corridor was recarpeted. All the stairs have had new coloured strips fitted to support our pupils with visual impairments and the cookery room has been reorganised and repainted. The library furniture is the current focus of the fundraising by the Friends of Woolgrove and on Tuesday you will see the lovely new shelving, seating and furniture they have already bought for us. We still have a long way to go to finish off replacing the existing shelving so please do support their efforts and events. Finally the old monkey bars and play equipment in the junior playground are currently being replaced with a brand new climbing wall and play equipment which should be installed by the end of the week.

As you are aware the school is celebrating its 40th year and I have been working with the governors to put together a plan of improvement to the buildings and outside areas to ensure that our school facilities are modern and appropriate for the needs of all our

pupils. I am, therefore, excited to be able to share with you our next projects which will be taking place over the summer holidays. In April we were delighted to be informed that the school had been successful in their bid from the Education Funding Agency to have all the children's toilets across the school completely replaced, as well as the adult toilets in the library corridor. The sum involved comes to approximately £200,000 and will make a huge difference to the children and staff with amazing facilities fit for the 21st century! In addition the following changes will also be happening this July and August:

- The offices of the deputy head and speech and language therapists will be knocked through to create a new classroom for Green Class with access to the outside.
- Current Green Class' classroom will be the new office for the speech and language therapists and an office will be created for Ms Swift by converting the science stock cupboard (which once upon a time was our site manager's office!).
- Sliding folding doors are being installed at the new end of the dining room to maximise use of that space and to enable the area to be used for sensory circuits, drama and other activities.
- Blue Classroom is being redecorated and reorganised with new furniture to allow the children greater access to resources and more room during child initiated learning.
- Fences are being moved in the infant playground to create a spacious outside area for Blue Class as well as larger outside areas for Yellow and the new Green classrooms.
- Both the infant and junior playgrounds are being re-fenced with 2.5 metre fencing and early in the autumn term the wildlife area and playing field are also all being re-fenced.

As I am sure you can see we have a busy summer ahead (!) so please do come along tomorrow evening to see the school before all these changes take place. It goes without saying that the driving force behind all these improvements is the motivation to ensure that your children have access to the best possible facilities during their time at Woolgrove. Our focus over the next three years is going to be improving the infant playground areas so if any of you have contacts or expertise in this area or would like to support us with ideas for accessing grants or fundraising opportunities please do let me know.

Yours faithfully

Lisa Hall

Mrs Hall
Head Teacher