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20<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Dear Families and Friends of Kintore Way,

As we are coming to the end of another school year we would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support throughout the year. This year gave us many reasons to celebrate from the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla and our Ofsted inspection in May. Kintore Way has been an outstanding nursery school for 10 years now and the report captured the real essence of the school and what we do well. The whole staff team have worked tremendously hard over the last few years to ensure children attending Kintore Way received a really high quality and exciting education.

Unfortunately, like so many Maintained Nursery Schools across the country, Kintore Way is in a very difficult financial position. We have a growing financial deficit, the money we receive does not match what we are spending and the Board of Governors have been faced with some really challenging decisions.

The Executive Headteacher and the Board of Governors have been looking at different ways we can save money and demonstrate that the school can come out of deficit and return to a positive financial footing. All the money Kintore Way has spent over the years has gone on ensuring all children's needs are met. We are facing difficult decisions, like so many other Maintained Nursery Schools, due to many factors including a lack of funding for children with Special Educational Needs, a loss of income during the pandemic and a drop in pupil numbers.

The Board of Governors and the Executive Headteacher are continuing to raise our concerns in regards to our funding with the Local Authority, the Elected Council Members and our local Member of Parliament.

While these discussions are still taking place, we have needed to act quickly to prevent our deficit from significantly increasing. We have begun the consultation process for a reorganisation of our staffing structure with staff and unions.

The proposed restructure will realign the roles of our different support staff with the current requirements of the school and ensure job descriptions and qualifications match posts. The proposals have been developed in consultation with the local authority. Unfortunately, the proposal does include role reductions and this will result in some staff taking redundancy or early retirement. These changes will come into effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024. We remain tremendously grateful for our hardworking and dedicated staff, and thank them for their immense contributions.

We are asking for the Local Authority to consider providing additional SEN/D funding for Kintore Way to ensure we can continue to support children with Special Educational Needs. Ofsted described Kintore Way as 'a shining example of how to make sure children, particularly those with SEN/D, get the help they need.' Without adequate funding this could be in jeopardy.

We are in discussions with the LA and Public Health regarding the funding provided for school lunches as we feel an increase to funding is desperately needed to ensure we can continue to provide nutritious meals.

We have seen a significant reduction in our pupil numbers in the autumn terms, in particular for children aged 3 and 4. Historically, River and Rainforest rooms can have up to 60 children per session. Although we have much larger pupil numbers in the summer term this does not provide enough funding to cover the staffing cost for a whole year. We are reducing the number of children admitted in River and Rainforest rooms. If our pupil numbers increase this will be reviewed.

As parents with a vote, you also can have a voice and we would urge you to share any concerns and highlight the school's strengths and you and child's experiences at Kintore Way in the following ways:

- Write to Cllr Jasmin Ali – [jasmine.ali@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:jasmine.ali@southwark.gov.uk)
- Write to Southwark's Strategic Director of Children's and Adults Services – [David.quirke-thornton@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:David.quirke-thornton@southwark.gov.uk)
- Write to your MP, Neil Coyle – [info@neilcoyle.org.uk](mailto:info@neilcoyle.org.uk)

We do still have a vacancy for a parent governor and we really would like a parent to join the Board of Governors who can represent the voices and views of parents, if you are interested in this position please speak to a member of the leadership team or email the school office at [office@kintoreway.southwark.sch.uk](mailto:office@kintoreway.southwark.sch.uk). The parent governor election will take place in the autumn term.

You can get in touch with the governors via the school office if you have any questions.

The school and governors would like to create a 'Friends of Kintore Way' group which current and past parents and carers can join. This group will hold regular meetings, support with fundraising and be a voice for parents and carers. We will contact parents and carers in September with more information. If your child is leaving in July and you would like to become a member of this group then please complete the form below and email the office at [office@kintoreway.southwark.sch.uk](mailto:office@kintoreway.southwark.sch.uk) to be added to the mailing list.

We hope that you have an enjoyable summer break and we would like to thank you for your continued support.

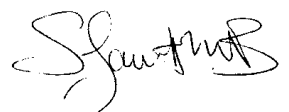
Yours faithfully,



Rebecca Sherwood  
Executive Headteacher



Robert Weir  
Chair of Governors



Sophie Gauthier-Beaudoin  
Vice Chair and LA Governor

Please complete and return to Kintore Way School Office or email the school office.

Parents/Carers Name

Child's Name

I would like to join 'The Friends of Kintore Way' group. I give consent for the school to contact me regarding events and other information.

Email:

Phone number:

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We would appreciate if you could take a few minutes to complete our end of year survey.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=uvbyGJQV3k2AomM45oqP87WCUiUw5m1AqMFc-exxcJUNjIFUFpKQTFswkU3RU4xMFozUklUR1QzSy4u>

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Here are some useful links to articles and information that explains the issues facing Maintained Nursery Schools.

<https://early-education.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/MNS-survey-June-2022-report.pdf>

<https://early-education.org.uk/mns-funding-june-2022/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2021/may/04/englands-nursery-schools-driven-towards-extinction-says-survey>

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/1476718X20969850>

<https://tribunemag.co.uk/2022/08/childcare-crisis-workers-parents-nursery-closures>

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/chso.12391>

<https://www.tes.com/magazine/news/early-years/just-3-nurseries-say-they-can-maintain-provision>

<https://www.tes.com/magazine/news/early-years/eyfs-nursery-schools-dfe-need-provide-funding-reception-places>

### Campaigns

<https://neu.org.uk/campaigns/save-maintained-nursery-schools>

<https://www.naht.org.uk/Our-Priorities/Funding/ArtMID/724/ArticleID/1768/More-than-half-of-England's-maintained-nursery-schools-are-struggling-to-cover-core-costs>