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Head Teacher: **Ms V Sengupta**

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to inform you of some exciting developments that we hope will be happening over the next few months at Upland.

In consultation with the Local Authority, we have been asked to consider a partial expansion of our school, to meet the need for additional primary places in Bexley. The expansion would involve taking on an additional year 2 class from the end of the Summer term, as well as an additional Reception class from September. We have been selected because Upland is a good school, is always oversubscribed and we have the space within our building and grounds to accommodate additional children.

This increase would mean that we would have two 'bulge' year groups, this means an extra class per year group, but from September 2018 we would revert back to having just two Reception classes, and no further expansion is planned at this stage.

The senior leaders and the Trustee Board have met with Bexley's admission and planning teams and spent a long time considering the impact this expansion will have on the school. It will have an effect on the internal capacity within the school and on our current year two classes. We have discussed at great length how we can make this work logistically to benefit our pupils and keep disruption to a minimum.

In light of these discussions, a decision has been made to go ahead with this project, subject to planning approval. The proposed arrangements for accommodating the two extra classes would be as follows:

The current Nursery classroom would become our third Reception classroom. A new purpose-built nursery classroom for Bumblebees would then be constructed within the Foundation Stage area, so we would be able to retain our morning and afternoon Nursery classes. This new building would also contain another classroom specifically for Technology lessons (Science, DT, Cookery, IT), along with toilet facilities, a kitchen and a meeting room.

In addition, the current music room would be converted into a classroom for the incoming year 2 children as this is in the lower key stage two area of the school (in preparation for them going into year 3 in September 2017). The current computing suite would be converted into a new music room so that we can retain all of the fantastic music provision that we currently have. Mr Gregory is already designing a wonderful room that will incorporate technology with music. We will not be losing any of our technology facilities; they will become mobile units in the form of more laptops, that can be used in the new room as well as in classrooms.

The decision to agree in principle to this partial expansion has not been taken lightly; we want to retain all of the excellence we have at Upland but also be open to considering exciting new projects such as this,

which can offer more opportunities to benefit our children. We are delighted that Upland has been given the opportunity to expand and firmly believe that this is the right step forward for Upland.

This project is still subject to planning approval and is in the hands of the Local Authority. As the Trustee Board and leaders make further decisions and as soon as we have heard back regarding the planning permission we will inform you.

Thank you once again for your continued support; if you do have any questions that I am able to answer at this very early stage, I will endeavour to do so.

Yours sincerely

Ms V Sengupta
Headteacher

Mrs E Johnson
Chair of Trustee Board

