



Dear Parent and Carers,

18th June 2019

As you know Burlington Infant and Nursery School and Burlington Junior Schools met with parents, carers and the local community for two meetings in May. Achieving for Children staff, on behalf of Kingston council, presented the proposal to expand both schools to become five form entry schools. At the end of the meeting, attendees were invited to complete a ballot to say if they were in favour of the proposal or not. The results of that ballot are attached to this letter.

Following the meetings the governing bodies of both schools met both together as two governing bodies as well as separately as individual governing bodies, and they reflected on the proposals and the opinions presented. It has become evident that expansion does mean very different things to both of the Burlington schools, and as a result the two governing bodies have reached separate conclusions.

Burlington Junior School reflected that their main reason for considering the proposal related to the fitness for purpose of their CLASP building and, of course, their eagerness to have this situation resolved. The Governing Body of the Junior School support the expansion of Burlington Junior School to 5FE in principle, if the CLASP building is replaced and the school and governors are integral to the design of the new masterplan and building. This decision has been supported by the head teacher and her staff. However, this support is caveated by the fact that the new facility must meet best practice for educating Junior School children, with future flexibility for changing educational needs of the children, and the governing body is currently collating a list of requirements for the expansion in order to negotiate their position with RBK.

Burlington Infant and Nursery School governors voted unanimously and unreservedly against the expansion of Burlington Infant and Nursery School. Their decision was not made lightly and while the governors are very sympathetic to the Burlington Juniors CLASP building predicament, they believe it is essential that this issue be divorced from the five form entry debate. The governing body does not believe there is enough concrete evidence supporting the need for additional school places at this point in time, when two nearby schools are struggling to fill and local development plans are at early stages. After discussion with the Infant's senior leadership team and their own research, they also strongly believe that five form entry is not conducive to the high educational standards valued so highly at Burlington Infants. The needs of Early Years children are very different to the needs of older children.

While the governing bodies have arrived at two differing stances on this matter, both are keen to confirm their respect for each other's viewpoints.

The governing bodies have informed Kingston Council and AFC of their respective decisions and understand that the council will reconsider its proposals and come back to the schools and their communities with next steps by the end of this term.

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BURLINGTON JUNIOR SCHOOL



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Burlington Infant & Nursery School

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Yours sincerely

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Chair of Governors
Burlington Junior School

Mrs Pip Utting
Head teacher
Burlington Junior School

Mr Matt Martin
Chair of Governors
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Mrs Su Yay-Walker
Head teacher
Burlington Infants School

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Expansion Proposal meetings for Burlington Infant & Nursery School & Burlington Junior School

Following both meetings, attendees were invited to vote in a ballot to express whether they were in favour of the expansion or not. Please find below the results of the ballot. Please note that during the meeting on 29th April, the votes were counted collectively and on 1st May they were counted separately per group of people voting as shown in the bar charts below.



