

Autumn 2016.

Dear Parents and Carers

In the academic year 2015 to 2016, governors have faced a number of challenges.

There have been funding gaps to address, which have been done successfully due to careful financial management.

However, the biggest issue we are addressing is our application to convert to academy status with Pentland Primary school in a multi academy trust. We believe this is the right move for our children as it will give us more freedom to direct the curriculum and will allow us, eventually, to make economies of scale.

We are also embarking on an application to develop a free school which will replicate the standards we have attained and achieved at St Mark's and it will also help us develop expertise in teaching across the multi academy trust. Pupil numbers are rising rapidly across the borough and a new school is much needed.

Again, in 2017, we will be improving our existing premises and expanding our school once again. Governors always carefully consider the impact of these activities particularly on the safeguarding of children which must always be our priority. We aim to ensure that the welfare of all children is our priority and also to promote positive learning experiences throughout a period of significant change. Finally, early years staff are working with private providers to ensure that children are safe and well educated at all times.

If you wish to discuss any of the matters I have talked about, please contact me in writing at the school office. I look forward to working with and for parents, carers and families in the coming year.

Yours sincerely

Mr D Allday

Chair of the governing body.