



THE MINSTER NURSERY AND INFANT SCHOOL

SCHOOL OF INSPIRATION

DETERMINATION HONOUR BELIEVE

PREPARING FOR A BRIGHT FUTURE WITH INNOVATIVE AND EXCITING LEARNING

Monday 16th December 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to have been appointed as Executive Leader of The Minster Nursery & Infants' and The Minster Junior School, with effect from January 2025.

Since January 2024, I have been Executive Leader of the Minster Junior School and also St Paul's CofE Primary School in Southwark, which I took from inadequate to good during the pandemic.

Before joining the SDBE MAT, to lead at St Paul's, I had successfully led 5 other primary schools since becoming a Headteacher in December 2000, in Tower Hamlets, Wandsworth, Croydon and Southwark where I led Dulwich Infants' School, from good to outstanding. I have already met with Ben Welby, Chair of Governors so that we have a shared vision for the school.

Since taking up my post, as Executive Leader at The Minster Junior School, in January 2024, my focus has been to further improve outcomes for children, improve attendance figures and reduce the number of children with attendance figures below 96%. I am delighted to report that there was a significant improvement in Yr. 6 outcomes which were in line or above national outcomes. My priority at The Nursery and Infants' school will also be to further improve outcomes for children in terms of their academic progress but also their well-being.

Mrs Edmonds - Headteacher at The Minster Nursery and Infants' School and I have been working closely together, in order to allow for some consistency of good practice across both schools, so that we can offer all our families, the best education possible for all of our children. This will also lead to a smoother transition for children coming to the Junior School from the Infants' School. Some examples of this are, that both schools now:

- Use the White Rose Maths programme
- Use Read Write Inc Phonics and now share resources and training sessions as well as the costs
- Use the Literacy Tree approach for teaching creative writing
- Work closely, to share assessment outcomes so that children's needs can be best met, from their first day at The Junior School
- Have some joint SLT meetings to share good practice
- Have a joint safeguarding, attendance and family support team - Ms Parker & Ms Robertson
- Shared INSET day training on relevant areas such as safeguarding and RWInc phonics
- Have one office team and location for both schools

Mrs Edmonds, Mrs Morgan and I have already met for several handover meetings, including attending the pupil progress meeting for Year 2 children.

As Executive Head of both Minster Schools, I will continue to develop ways of both schools working together in the interests of every child.



WE ARE A VOLUNTARY AIDED (VA) SCHOOL WITHIN THE DIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK
HEAD TEACHER: MRS STEPHANIE EDMONDS B Ed HONS

Warrington Road, Croydon CR0 4BH
email: office@minsterinfants.co.uk

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I am delighted to share that Laura Akhtar has agreed to a secondment and will be working at Minster Infants as Head of School for three days a week (Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday) over the spring and summer terms. This secondment will provide additional strength and leadership capacity for the Infants' school as both Minster schools are expecting OFSTED inspections this academic year.

Laura is a very well-established leader within the Multi-Academy Trust and is currently Deputy Head Teacher at St Leonard's Primary School, Streatham. Over the past couple of years, Laura has been part of a strong leadership team that has navigated successful outstanding Ofsted and SIAMs inspections respectively, and has run the school, while the current headteacher had been away unwell.

Most importantly, Laura is personable, positive and is very much looking forward to working with the team at Minster Infants. Laura is aware that Minster Infants has a number of strong senior and middle leaders, and wants to play a key role in continuing to enable existing staff to develop and flourish. She has already visited the school to have an initial opportunity to walk around and meet members of the team.

Laura and I would really like to see you face to face, at one of 2 meetings we will be holding for parents during the first week of term after Christmas. At this meeting, we will share the:

- School improvement priorities for this academic year
- Outcomes of the parent questionnaire

The meetings will run before collection time, on Tuesday 7th Jan and Wednesday 8th Jan at 2:30pm. Please can you complete & return the reply slip below before **Thursday 18th December** so that we know how many of you to expect in terms of seating and refreshments. Please note that you only need to attend one meeting.

I am really looking forward to working with you all, from January onwards, but in the meantime, I wish you a blessed and peaceful Christmas break you're your families.
Yours sincerely,

Ali Silke
Executive Headteacher
Cc: Ben Welby
Chair of Governors



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Child's Name

Parent's Name.....

Class.....

I will attend the meeting on Tuesday 7th January 2025 at 2.30pm

I will attend the meeting on Wednesday 8th January 2025 at 2.30pm



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