



Dear Parents,

We hope you and your families are able to keep safe and well during these difficult times.

We are writing to you today because Tower Hamlets Council reached a decision about our schools' future last week, and the "call in" period following the decision is now complete, so we are able to make that decision public.

The Council decided that Redlands and Smithy Street Schools will be amalgamated from September 2020. The newly amalgamated school will be called Stepney Park Primary School. We hope that you are as pleased as we are that the quality of education will be strengthened in this positive next step bringing our schools together.

We had hoped that, if the amalgamation were agreed, there would be many opportunities to celebrate the history of the two schools and to build towards an integrated single school moving forward. The coronavirus restrictions will make that harder, but both Headteachers are thinking of ways to engage children and staff in the change processes during the Summer Term and at the start of the Autumn Term.

A Temporary Governing Body has been established and they will meet during the Summer Term to make sure that everything is ready for the start of next school year. Our individual school governing bodies will continue to meet and remain the strategic leads for our schools.

In the consultation, some parents expressed concern over the costs of new school uniform, and governors will decide next term what they will be able to provide free for parents to support the cost of this.

A second concern was the whether a Redmans Street entrance will be available at the start and end of the school day and we can confirm that it will continue to be used.

We also want to take this opportunity to say a huge thankyou to all staff who are working to support key workers, and to reach out to all our families during this extraordinary time, and know many of whom have volunteered to give up their Easter holidays, so that the support can continue, and to which all parents managing balancing work and children at home, without the usual freedoms our very best wishes.

Yours sincerely

Anna Gouge

Chair of Redlands School

Ros Coffey

Chair of Smithy Street School