



Smithy Street Primary School

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Dear parents and carers of Smithy Street.

I am writing to you on the last day of the summer term, the last day of the school year , but most importantly: the last day of Smithy Street Primary School.

I know that many of you will share my feelings of sadness; a great school which has educated generations of children (and their children) will be closing its doors for the final time later today, July 17th, 2020.

Like many other schools, Smithy Street has been an anchor of the community. It has been a place where people have met friends for life, parents and children alike. It has given its children a great education; many have gone on to great success. Smithy Street has also been a caring and inclusive school, it has cared for all children coming through its doors, regardless of their background. I feel humbled and proud to have been part of its history.

Smithy Street would not have been Smithy Street if it hadn't been for its dedicated staff, both present and in the past, who have worked with relentless energy and commitment to do their best for each other and for the children in their care. 'Thank you' simply does not go far enough!

As you know, Smithy Street will be amalgamating with its neighbour and friend Redlands and become Stepney Park Primary school from September. I will be writing to you later today and over the summer holidays to talk to you about our summer works and reopening plans. Please check the Smithy Street website and the Stepney Park Primary website for updated information.

Almost all staff will still be with us at the start of term, so you will see many many familiar faces when you return to school.

However, a few staff will be leaving us before this time. They include:

- Jessie who has been in Smithy Street for 14 years, as a class teacher, a subject leader and a PPA teacher.
- Ruth who has been here 8 years, mainly as an EYFS class teacher.
- Kim who has been here 6 years as a class teacher and leader, teaching in all key stages.
- Lizzie who has been here as a class teacher and leader in KS2.
- Shahnaz , who has been here as a HLTA cover supervisor for 1 year.
- Fatima our receptionist, who has been with us for 1 year

We are also saying goodbye to our lovely Year 6 children, who all came back yesterday to have a special day back at school. I hope it has given them some closure.

They , staff and children alike, have all made their impact and through their commitment have made Smithy Street a better place to be. Thank you to all! We wish you all the best in your future careers and lives.

What a year it has been... The ups and downs have felt like a roller coaster at times. However, seeing children's excited faces when they bounced back into school last week to say goodbye to

their teachers, friends and to meet their new teachers was delightful; it filled us with so much positive energy. We can't wait to get a sense of normality back, and are looking forward to seeing all of you again in September, when we will re-open full time to all children as part of Stepney Park Primary School.

I would like to thank you once again for all your support, patience, positivity and partnership. I hope you will all have a good summer, see you in September.

For the last time as the Headteacher of Smithy Street Primary School:

Kindest regards,

Edith Philipsen