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28th April 2020

Dear Parents,

We hope this letter finds you well. We had promised to arrange a meeting for the Summer Term to update you on the situation concerning Bowes Southgate Green. Since the lockdown has been extended for a further three weeks, we felt it was important to update you on the situation by letter.

As you are aware, a great deal of work has been going on behind the scenes in order to secure a permanent solution for Bowes Southgate Green. We have been in regular communication with the Local Authority, Broomfield School and the Department for Education in order to find a way forward. We know that you hold the school in high regard and it is good to hear your positive comments about the school. We opened Southgate Green in order to ensure that there were sufficient school places in the area. We have always shared your desire to keep our very popular school open and to find a permanent solution to the school's accommodation needs.

In spite of intensive and lengthy negotiations over a number of years, we have not been able to secure a 25-year lease with Broomfield School in order to de-amalgamate Bowes Southgate Green from Bowes and establish a stand-alone school. As we have explained to parents at various meetings there are significant costs and operational needs arising from a split site school. Without a permanent solution to the accommodation requirements, we cannot continue to operate as a split-site school. The Trust has given very careful considerations to all the possible options and we regret that we can therefore no longer admit children to Bowes Southgate Green from September 2021 and our last intake will be in September 2020.

Southgate Green is recognised by the Local Authority and the DfE as part of Bowes School. In terms of Ofsted, KS2 performance data, staffing and school ethos it is one school. Please be assured that your child will continue to have a place at Bowes Primary School until they leave in Year 6. We have taken on board your concerns regarding younger siblings and have changed our admission policy to allow for **all** siblings to have a priority place at Bowes New Southgate from September 2021.

We would like to say a huge thank you to the parent body and representatives from the Local Authority who have continued to liaise with Broomfield for the future of Bowes Southgate Green, alongside representatives from the Trust.

We know you will all be so disappointed that we are unable to develop a stand-alone school, but please be assured your children will continue to have an amazing opportunity of learning in an environment that offers an outstanding education.

Given these challenging circumstances, thank you once again for your continued support and understanding. Please don't hesitate to get in contact if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Turner- CEO

John West- Chair of Trustees

Sarah Turner - Chief Executive Officer

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