



Townsend Primary School

Townsend Street, London SE17 1HJ

Telephone: 020 7703 2672

Headteacher: Anne Stonell

Acting Assistant Headteacher: Robert Hamilton

24th November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Consultation on the Proposed Closure of Townsend Primary School

It is with great sadness that I write this letter to you; a letter that I hoped I would never have to write.

The Governors of Townsend Primary School have been in discussion with Southwark Local Authority and both have agreed on the difficult decision to consult on the closure of the school by September 2022.

Over the last three years both the Governors and the Local Authority have worked together on exploring other options, but reluctantly they have had to take this decision.

Why is Townsend Primary consulting on Potential Closure?

For the last five years, there have been falling numbers across all London Boroughs. This area of Southwark has had the highest fall of numbers. Schools that have 2 forms have been reduced to 1 form. Some schools are amalgamating.

Townsend's numbers continue to fall because there are not enough children in the area. This has resulted in the school being unable to finance the staff and provision for our pupils. The Governors, Headteacher and LA have looked at several ways to make Townsend financially viable. We could not combine classes into one class, because the numbers did not allow this. We have explored an amalgamation with another school, but after several months, this proved too difficult.

What does 'Consult on proposed closure of the school' mean?

- The Governors and Local Authority (LA) will consult with all stakeholders and the local community for views on the proposed closure of the school and to see if there is any other option than closure.
- This will last from the 3rd January – 14th February 2022.

What does this mean for our Townsend families and children?

Next week there are three meetings that parents can attend. At these meetings there will be;

- Norma McCance Chair of Governors
- School's Leadership Team
- Nina Dohel – Director of Education for Southwark
- Senior Council Officers

PARENT MEETINGS

MONDAY 29th NOVEMBER

9am and 6pm
in the middle hall.

TUESDAY 30th NOVEMBER

6pm Virtual meeting

Please email ric.euteneuer@southwark.gov.uk with any questions you have before the meetings. Submitted questions will help us to ensure that issues important to you are covered.

We recognise that this news will be difficult to receive, particularly in the midst of what has been an extremely challenging period due to Covid-19. Sadly, there is no good time to receive such news.

Mrs Stonell and her team, the Governors and the Local Authority will be available throughout the consultation period to respond to your questions and to offer support. Throughout the process further meetings will take place to support families through this difficult period.

Thursday 25th November

Mrs Stonell and staff will be available in the playground to offer support before and after school.

We know our children will need support and need to talk about this, we therefore have planned class activities and discussions regarding this news. As you know, we will be there to support and reassure all of our children and our parents throughout this process.

We look forward to seeing you at the meetings on Monday 29th November or virtually on Tuesday 30th November.

We have attached a Frequently Asked Questions sheet, that hopefully will inform you further. If there are any questions that you would like the answer to, then please remember to email them to ric.euteneuer@southwark.gov.uk before the meetings.

Yours Sincerely,



Norma McCance
Chair of Governors