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Dear parents, carers

Future of Grasvenor Avenue Infant School

I am writing to you personally to provide some information about the future of Grasvenor Avenue Infant School. It is with great sadness that I must inform you that Trustees have taken the hard decision to explore the potential closure of Grasvenor Avenue Infant School.

Over the past decade or more, Grasvenor Avenue Infant School and its staff have worked very hard to continue as a 1 Form Entry Infant School, with a capacity of 90 pupils, offering a personalised feel in a small, safe, school environment. With the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic and having been unsuccessful in finding a multi academy trust to join, Trustees have been left with no option but to explore the potential closure of the school. The viability of the school is no longer secure, with long-term budget deficits projected, compounded by low birth rates in our area of Barnet. Trustees have long worked hard on supplementing the school's income, this has been successful for the past 10 years, but during COVID this additional income has all but disappeared and is not expected to return.

The proposal to explore the potential closure of the school will be subject to a listening period with parents, staff and local stakeholders before a final decision being taken, which could see the school closing by the end of the next academic year (August 2022). A consultation will be circulated to you in early October to begin the process to capture these views. We will work hard to support parents in securing a place at an alternative school by the end of July 2022, if not before, for pupils to continue their educational journey. We have support in place to ensure that we are able to offer a good standard of education for all pupils so that they are able to continue their journey with us for the whole of the next academic year. This means that cohort from September this year, the Reception class as well as Years 1 and 2 will complete their educational journey with us in July 2022.

We recognise this will come as a surprise to you and we fully appreciate the potential anxiety this decision will bring to you and to the school community, especially given the disruption of the last year. With our partners, we are putting into place as much support as possible to help our community both digest this news and consider the options that are available to them. Therefore, in order to support the next stage of child(ren)'s educational journey, we propose a Q&A session for all parents and carers, where we can discuss the decision in further detail, and answer any questions you may have. This meeting will be held on **Monday 19 July at 4pm** over Zoom due to COVID restrictions

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81028347151?pwd=RnRpSVZNa1FSOE9CY3gyWG51Wks1dz09>

We have also arranged for a member of the Barnet Admissions Team to also attend this meeting and be available to speak to you in regard to spaces that exist in local schools and to support the future choices you wish to make. In addition, we will be arranging Zoom open mornings with local schools that have spaces available in the new academic year. This will enable you to have an opportunity to hear more about the options in local schools next year and spaces available in local schools.

This is a very challenging time for all involved in the school and we wish that we could have continued with the special education environment that has educated families for generations in the local community. As for the future of the land and buildings, if the decision is to close, this will transfer to the Local Authority, as the Freeholder and they will decide on the next chapter of the Grasvenor story.

I would like to thank the staff so much for everything they have achieved to make Grasvenor Avenue Infant School such a special place for all pupils. A school has operated from this site since 1937 and we are sorry to announce its last day is potentially approaching.

We will, of course, keep you updated as things progress. While no final decisions have been made, we felt it was important to share this news with you as soon as possible.

With best wishes

Peter de Naeyer
Chair of Trustees