



# Downe Primary School

A caring village school

Headteacher  
Mrs J. Panteli

Monday 6th June 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **Downe Primary School – Announcement of a new partnership with the Pioneer Academy and farewell to Jodene Panteli**

I hope that you had a lovely half term and enjoyed some of the Platinum Jubilee festivities.

I write with exciting news about the future of Downe Primary School. Governors have voted unanimously to partner with The Pioneer Academy to secure the long term future of the school through significant investment in staffing and the buildings.

The school will become an academy and join The Pioneer Academy, a strong, successful Bromley-based multi-academy trust, which oversees 14 primary schools in London and the southeast. This decision, which is fully supported by the London Borough of Bromley, aligns with the Government's Schools White Paper, which sets out the expectation that all schools will become academies by 2030.

Governors are clear that the ethos of the school will not change and the Governing Body will continue to work on your behalf. You can expect to see investment in the school buildings, with support from both the London Borough of Bromley and The Pioneer Academy.

I would also like to share the news that Jodene Panteli has secured a new position as Head of the Old Palace Preparatory School in Croydon. Governors would like to thank Jodene for all her hard work and leadership over this past year and to wish her the best for her future role.

I am pleased to announce that the new Headteacher from September will be Becky Dolan, an experienced Headteacher with The Pioneer Academy who has previously led two of their schools, and who grew up in Downe Village.

Governors appreciate this is significant news for your child's school. We are delighted to be in a position to make this positive announcement about the long-term future of the school.

If you have any questions for the Governors, can you email them in the first instance to the Clerk ([kewis@downeprimary.com](mailto:kewis@downeprimary.com)) and we will do our best to answer them and hope to arrange an in person session as soon as we can.

Yours sincerely,

Kim Brown  
Chair of Governors

Brett Clarke  
Vice Chair of Governors

### **Statement from Jodene Panteli, Headteacher**

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at Downe Primary School and the highlight has absolutely been working with you and your brilliant children. I want to thank each and every one of you for your unwavering support of me and for trusting me with leading your amazing little school over the last year.

I want to take this opportunity to reassure you that my departure from Downe Primary School is in no way linked to the newly agreed partnership with The Pioneer Academy Trust; I view the partnership with The Pioneer Academy Trust very positively and can see an exciting and positive future for the school ahead. I will most certainly keep in touch with my colleagues at Downe Primary School and look forward to hearing about all the exciting developments, of which the best interests of your children will be firmly at the heart.

Jodene Panteli  
Headteacher

### **Statement from The Pioneer Academy**

The Pioneer Academy (TPA) is a well-established Multi-Academy Trust with a proven track record of success. It was established in 2011 by Stewart Fleming Primary School in LB Bromley where the now CEO was Head Teacher, and has grown steadily since then. TPA currently includes fourteen primary phase schools including a small rural school of similar size to Downe Primary School only five miles away.

The Pioneer Academy achieves improvements through a relentless focus upon children, through high quality and committed staff, and through the schools working in partnership to improve practice in every aspect of school life.

We are excited to partner with Downe Primary School and look forward to working with Governors, parents and staff to ensure the very best quality of education and opportunities for the children at the school.