

**Wix Primary, Wix's Lane, Clapham Common North Side, London SW4 OAJ**

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Executive Headteacher: John Grove Acting Headteacher: Rebecca Osuntokun

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Dear Parent and Carers,

As we come to the end of the first half term of the 2016/17 academic year, I wanted to write to you to thank you for your support to the school. When I wrote to you at the beginning of the year, I stated that there was much to be done to improve the provision we offer your children. There was no surprise from the parents I have spoken to that much needed to be done and I have been encouraged by your welcome and candour. This need for improvement and change is partly why the Governors asked me to become involved with the school. My agreement to become Executive Head, together with the Belleville Governors' permission for me to do this, was based on the premise that we would develop a long term relationship between Belleville and Wix. This remains my firm intention and this has been made even more transparent with the arrival of Ofsted. I hope to be able to provide you with more information soon.

Ofsted contacted us on the first Tuesday of the term, to inform us that they would be inspecting the school the following day. We had one afternoon to prepare. Five weeks later, we still await their report and we are barred from commenting on its content until it is published. This is a frustrating quirk of the system in which we work. In the meantime, we have started the process of improving the provision we offer your children. All of our actions were planned for before Ofsted arrived. However, the inspection did provide a clear audit of the school we inherited. What we now seek to do is to provide you and your children with the school your children deserve.

This term Rebecca Osuntokun and the team have worked tirelessly to improve the school. Their first priority has rightly been to ensure your children are kept safe and secure at all times. The team have addressed many the school policies, which are now up to date and available on the website. They have also provided extensive staff training which will continue over the coming weeks. In addition, we have asked the local authority to organise a further review of our policies and systems immediately after the half term break. In some instances, we intend to go further than is required by law. For example, we are introducing additional systems to ensure we do not have intruders on site and, even if this were to happen, your children should be safe. While I do not want to publicise our precise systems you may hear from your children about what they should do if there is an intruder on site. If you have such conversations please reassure your children, as we will, that they should not worry and that this is all done for their safety. Please help us in this process by ensuring you do not enter the school site without permission and that you are signed in and suitably badged when entering the school building. We all want the same thing; a very safe school.

We have continued to develop the provision for the core subjects, Maths and English, as well as the quality of teaching. The Belleville team has taken a lead in much of this work. Our aim is to ensure similar quality and outcomes as Belleville, whilst still retaining the strengths of Wix. Having been at Wix this term and having spoken with staff, parents and carers, governors, and children, I think we will be able to achieve this, but it will require hard work and application from all of us.

Thank you to those who attended the maths introductory session last week. It was very well attended and it was good to meet so many of you. We have put the presentation on our school website. We have adopted what is known as a Singaporean approach to the teaching of maths but we prefer to just call it maths.



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We have provided training for all teachers both over the summer and at the beginning of term. Belleville has shared maths text books with Wix and we have invested extensively in maths work books and manipulatives (counters, number strings, etc.). This week, two of the Wix teachers are on a two day training course for 'Maths Champions'. After the holiday, we will have more support from the Belleville team (for example Karen Taylor who lead the maths training session) and other maths experts.

On Tuesday Alice David-Jekyll and Jane Ford led a parents introductory session on the teaching of English. In these sessions, we are outlining how we will be teaching English and reading at Wix, the theory behind the approach and how you as parents and carers can help your children. One obvious example of the change is the home school reading records your children have been bringing home each week. We have not only invested time and money into producing these books, but the school has also invested heavily in providing more books for your children. The presentation for this evening is also now on our school website.

Together with Rebecca Osuntokun, I am working closely with Francoise Zurbach and our French colleagues to continue to improve the provision we offer your children. Francoise has visited Belleville and I have visited the French classes and met with many members of the Lycée team. We will be further developing these links over the coming weeks. My aim is to further strengthen the relationship between the two schools. At Belleville we have one school on two sites; at Wix we have two schools on one site. Both relationships can work very successfully.

Other areas in which we are working to improve the school include the school meals provision. We shared our dissatisfaction with contractors about the quantity, quality and choice of food during the first weeks of the year. We are reviewing this daily and our team are working to ensure this improves, so that your children get the quality of food you and they deserve.

I will ensure you have access to the Ofsted report as soon as it is available. At this point I will also arrange a meeting where I can meet parents and carers to discuss our plans for Wix and where you can share any concerns and observations. The school has already moved from where it was last term and the first five days of this term. Many issues have been addressed. My intention is that Wix and Belleville will continue to develop an ever closer relationship, whereby we can ensure that we provide your children with the education they deserve.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Yours sincerely,

John Grove  
Executive Headteacher



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