

1<sup>st</sup> October 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

### **Proposed Consultation on School Name Change**

As we have now reach our seventh year and are strongly pushing forward continual efforts to improve, it is time for us to think about where we go next. How can we make this the best school for pupils and families? How do we increase the numbers in classes?

What we have here is special. We've worked as a community to develop it and make a safe and happy school, which children want to come to and are always eager to learn. We've grown to a new site with a wonderful new building and huge outdoor space. On top of this, we have dedicated staff, trustees and parents who work around the clock to support the children.

What we don't have is the pupil numbers. In one respect this is great as we can spend more time with each child, everyone knows each other and we all get along well. It means we can always accommodate new people and help families searching for somewhere to place their children. What it doesn't mean, however, is that we get a huge amount of funding from the government.

It's not just about the money though. It's about opportunities for the children, new friends, supporting more families, being able to take part in sports tournaments etc. Which is why we have come to the decision that we need to completely rebrand. First and foremost though, I must stress that *nothing about the school in terms of our aims and ethos or our friendly, flexible family feel will change*. What we have works so we would never change it.

So why the name change? Each year, when it comes to recruiting new pupils for Reception, we are asked by nearly every family 'aren't you a faith school?' We have never been a faith school, but rather have a Sikh ethos meaning that everyone is welcome here and we learn more through experiencing the diversity of those we sit next to in class.

We even struggle to entice those who live on our doorstep. The name has always posed some confusion: Khalsa Science Academy just didn't sound like your local primary school. Academy seems more like a secondary school and the 'science' element made people think that is all we do. We made the interim move to KSA Primary but it hasn't had the desired affect.

The initial proposal therefore is to move to Fir Tree Primary School and some of you may have seen this in the online Leeds City Council Schools Prospectus. We are located on Fir Tree Rise and back onto the local reservoir's woodland area. We are investing in our outdoor space and will be planting trees on our grounds later this year. It was also the name of the school previously on the site, one which we know some of our parents, grand-parents and visitors attended. It is a name that makes sense and sounds less like it is aimed at one demographic, but is rather open and welcoming to anyone and everyone – just as our Sikh ethos states.

We always try to be collaborative in our approach and we are therefore proposing to host a consultation evening to give you the chance to ask questions and for us to address any concerns you may have. We will be available on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October at 3.45pm to meet with anyone who would like to discuss this further. We would ask that you keep hold of your questions until then so that we can spend the necessary time answering them at that meeting.

Yours sincerely

Mr License, Acting Principal