



23rd March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Further to the announcement that Ms Bruce will be retiring at the end of the Summer term, I am delighted to confirm that Miss Cheska Tyler has been appointed as Headteacher of Cherry Tree School, joining us from the beginning of September. Cheska has been Assistant Headteacher at Newington Green Primary School in Islington for the past four and a half years, having previously taught at the school as well as in another school in Brighton. Cheska is a keen runner, food blogger and enjoys travelling.

We chose Cheska after an extensive assessment process that included panel interviews, informal discussions, a formal presentation, a lesson observation, a data exercise and meeting parents and children from Cherry Tree. Cheska's teaching qualifications are excellent and she has strong leadership experience both as a staff governor and an Assistant Headteacher. She has been looking for a school with values she can relate to and a clear vision for the future. In her own words "Cherry Tree Primary School is a very special place and during my visit I felt a genuine sense of connection to the ethos and values of the school. I am excited about its future growth as part of such a collaborative and supportive Multi Academy Trust."

My thanks go to the many people who took part in the interview process but I would particularly like to thank: our Assistant Headteacher, Emma Hill; Liz Leeman, Chair of Trustees; Gemma Williamson, Chair of Governors; Chris Rogers and Emily Sheppard, parent governors; Sharon Carlyon, IMAT COO and Joanna DiBella, Hertfordshire Improvement Partner. It was a long and challenging process for the candidates, but we were all hugely impressed by Cheska and feel that she has all of the qualities needed to lead Cherry Tree School forward.

In these highly challenging and worrying times, it is lovely to be able to deliver some truly exciting news. Cheska is keen to meet the children, parents, staff and governors at Cherry Tree as soon as possible but clearly, we are going to have to think about how we go about this in the current climate. Over the coming weeks I will be in contact with Cheska to work out how we can best introduce her to you all. I know you will give her a warm welcome when the time comes.

We will say much more about this at a later date, but while welcoming Cheska, I must also personally thank Jess Bruce for her long and successful career as Headteacher of Cherry Tree School. Jess and Cheska will be collaborating over the coming weeks and months to ensure the smoothest possible handover. Clearly these are unusual times but when they are over, I look forward to celebrating Jess' extensive career in the proper way and welcoming Cheska as the new Headteacher of Cherry Tree School

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Roach'.

James Roach
Chief Executive Officer
Inclusive Multi Academy Trust