

**Letter to Parents and Carers from Anthony Shayle, Chair of Governors**16th April 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you are aware, the Governors have been reviewing staffing and finances across both schools to ensure we are in the strongest possible position for the future.

Our priority throughout this process has been to ensure that the quality of education, care and support for your children remains as strong as it is today. While there will be changes to leadership, the day-to-day experience for children will remain consistent, with familiar staff continuing to work with and support them.

I am writing to confirm that from September 2026 we will be moving to a single leadership structure across the Infant and Junior Schools. This will be a combined team, bringing together experienced leaders from both schools to provide continuity, stability and strength across all phases.

This team will be as follows:

Mrs Eileen Bhavsar (current Junior School Head Teacher) will be the Head Teacher

Mrs Lisa Berger (current Junior School Deputy Head) will be the Deputy Headteacher

Mr John Morrissey (current Junior School Assistant Head) will be the Assistant Headteacher

- **Early Years Foundation Stage:** Mrs Jones and Mrs Elia will share leadership of the Early Years, ensuring a strong and nurturing start for children in Reception.
- **Key Stage 1:** Mrs Kesavji will join the leadership team and oversee teaching and learning in Years 1 and 2. This ensures that the strong foundations of the Infant School remain central to the school's future.
- **Key Stage 2:** Whilst Years 5 and 6 remain three-form entry, Mrs Margolis will continue to lead Year 5. Miss Buck and Miss Gardner will share leadership of Year 6. Mr Morrissey will continue to support the Year 4 team, as well as working across the whole school to develop teaching and learning.
- **Special Educational Needs:** SEN provision will continue with clear leadership and continuity for children already receiving additional support. We are pleased that Mrs Elia and Mrs Goldman, our two SENCOs, will be part of the leadership team, ensuring consistency and expertise across both schools.

Alongside this, there will be shared subject leadership from Early Years through to Key Stage 2 to ensure consistency and progression across the school. Mrs Berger will work across the whole school to support this, with a particular focus on transition between Year 2 and Year 3, as well as continuing to support Year 6.

Leadership changes at the Infant School

Ms Sarah Sands, Headteacher of the Infant School, and Ms Sarah Jowsey, Deputy Headteacher, have both made the decision to leave at the end of this school year.

Ms Sands has led the Infant School with warmth, care and unwavering commitment for over 21 years. She has been at the heart of the school community for a generation of families, shaping the school into the nurturing, inclusive and high-quality environment it is today. Her impact on children, families and staff over that time has been profound, and she will be greatly missed by all who know the school.

We are equally grateful to Ms Jowsey for her exceptional dedication over 25 years. Her leadership, creativity and passion for teaching, particularly through her work in art education, have inspired countless children and supported many colleagues throughout their careers. She has played a vital role in shaping the character and strength of the school.

We recognise that this news will be significant for many in our community. Both have given so much to the school over many years, and their contribution cannot be overstated. We will ensure there are opportunities to recognise and celebrate their time with the school in a way that reflects the difference they have made.

Why we are making this change

Like many London schools, both schools are facing financial pressures linked to falling pupil numbers. As a governing body, we have carefully considered how best to respond to this while protecting the quality of education and support for all children.

Moving to a shared leadership team allows more of the school's resources to be directed towards teaching and classroom support, while also ensuring a sustainable and stable structure for the future.

We are pleased that this has been achieved without the need for compulsory redundancies, and staff welfare has remained central to decision making throughout.

Working towards the new structure

Mrs Bhavsar, who already knows many of the families, is very much looking forward to getting to know more of the Infant community. The Junior team will be working closely with Infant staff this term to plan for a smooth and positive transition.

How this relates to the amalgamation consultation

You will be aware that there is an ongoing consultation about whether to bring the two schools together into one primary school. This leadership change is a separate decision, taken on its own merits, as the right step financially and operationally at this time.

While this change brings the schools closer together, which we believe benefits both children and staff, it does not depend on the amalgamation going ahead. The consultation remains ongoing, with the formal Barnet consultation date due to be confirmed. No decision has been made, and all views will be properly considered.

Your questions

If you have any questions about the restructure, please use the email address primary@gsjs.barnetmail.net

We understand that change can feel unsettling, and we are grateful for your patience and support. We would also like to thank the leadership teams, and particularly Mrs Bhavsar and Ms Sands, for their professionalism and commitment throughout this period.

Looking ahead

We are confident that this is a positive step forward. We have an experienced and balanced leadership team in place and are committed to continuing to provide your children with the highest quality education, care and support.

Yours sincerely,

Anthony Shayle
Chair of Governors
On behalf of the Governing Body