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AHN/NCR

5<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear parents and carers,

It has been lovely getting to know your children over the last month. I think that they are gradually getting used to seeing me and the other staff from Bishop Luffa who regularly visit. I wanted to reassure you that we are taking precautions as we enter Rumboldswhyke: we are wearing face masks in the corridors and when we go into classrooms and staying more than 2m away from the children. I look forward to a time when these precautions are no longer necessary and we can bring lots of staff and students over to the school!

We have begun to make some changes. I am sure that you will be pleased to hear that Mrs Toy and Mrs Blacklock have agreed to make their roles at Rumboldswhyke permanent. They, like all of the staff, are looking forward to working with Mrs Harris when she starts on 1st January.

We have begun to redecorate the school, and I hope that your children have noticed the large picture of the Rumboldswhyke logo on the main corridor. The library team from Bishop Luffa are also working hard to develop the library, which will have a new home and plenty of new books in the coming weeks.

Your children may have told you that we have been making a video to advertise the school. We hope to be able to share this with you soon, and would appreciate your support in circulating it so that lots of families get to see what a unique school Rumboldswhyke is.

We have formally requested that the school is re-designated as an all-through primary school. The business case for this change was accepted in the summer when we were given permission to sponsor the school. The Regional Schools Commissioner requires all schools that are making a change like this to consult the local community and gather their views. I appreciate that you have spent a lot of time campaigning already, but it would be very helpful if you could tell the R.S.C. why you think the school should be an all-through primary school. You can do this by either writing to the school or sending an email to consultation@rumboldswhyke.org.uk.

While the application is being considered, the Local Authority need to let Year 2 parents know about the transfer process to KS2. The primary school consultation should be completed before you have to apply for KS2, so you may want to read the information and then wait to see whether the change of status is approved. The information will be coming out to you in the next few days. The Local Authority acknowledge that the timing is not ideal but have a statutory duty to send this out while we legally remain an Infant School.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to know more about our plans for Rumboldswhyke or anything contained in this message. My email address is head@bishopluffa.org.uk.

Yours faithfully,

Austen Hindman

CEO, Bishop Luffa Learning Partnership

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