



Who do I want to be?



Caring

Respectful

Curious

Honest

Informed

Active

Empathetic

Resilient

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back and I wish you all a **Happy New Year!** I hope everyone enjoyed the festive season of Christmas and New Year celebrations.

STEAM 2018

The children have returned energised and ready for an exciting spring term in 2018. We will continue to explore our **whole school theme 'Time to Talk; Time to Change'**. The children will plan and curate the annual **Torriano STEAM exhibition in March**, where they will share their learning in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics. This year, we will be exploring the idea of **'World Articulation'** and the science of communication. The STEAM team are planning many exciting events so be ready to get involved!

Science Lab Progress

There has been significant progress with the Science Lab construction project over the holidays **with completion set for the end of January**. We will start planning for the grand opening and would like the support of the school community to help raise funds for a special interactive projector to be installed in the space, which will support the engagement and learning of the younger children. More information about this project will be shared shortly.

Additional Events

This term we will also be celebrating numerous exciting events including; **UNICEF Day for Change 2018 and World Book Day in March**. The school will also be re-validating our **Rights Respecting School Award** by aiming for the new gold standard.

New Parent Portal

We are committed to improving communication and efficiency and have invested in a **new Pupil Management Data System** this academic year. We are now preparing for the introduction of a **Parent Portal** as part of this facility. The portal will enable parents to make payments for clubs and trips, view their child's attendance and progress data and sign and receive forms online from the school. **There will be training workshops to support the whole school transition** to the system later this term with the ambition to be **fully operational by April 2018**. We will keep you informed regarding workshops dates.

Term Dates and INSET days

The updated term dates **for 2018-19 are published on the school website** and can be found attached to this letter. **Please do refer to the term dates when arranging holidays** as leave during term time cannot be authorised in accordance with the school's Attendance Policy. Please note that there will be an **INSET day for the school's Annual Self-evaluation** event on **Monday 25th June 2018**. The children will return to school on **Tuesday 26th June 2018**.

There will be an **INSET day on the 25th July**, with school ending for the children at **2.30 pm on the 24th July**.

Extra-curricular Clubs

After school clubs commence on the 15th January. Please can you advise the school office if your child is unable to attend an after school club session. This ensures that we know the whereabouts of all children, pupils going home or arranged collections. The spring extra – curricular timetable is accessible on the school website.

Curriculum Letters

Curriculum letters, providing further information about learning this term, including trips and swimming arrangements, **will be sent out on Friday 12th January 2017**.

I hope the term is an exciting and successful one for our children.

Yours sincerely,

Helen Bruckdorfer
Headteacher