Dear Parents/Carers, Staff and other interested parties

Proposal to expand Halfway Houses Primary School

The Government’s Priority School Building Programme provides capital funding to improve school buildings. Following Kent County Council’s successful bid for funding, feasibility work is now underway to rebuild Halfway Houses on what was the Danley Middle School site. The project will be managed by the Education Funding Agency but the school will be involved at every stage. We will keep you updated as the project progresses and there will be an opportunity for everyone to see the plans.

The governors are very aware of the pressure on primary school places in the locality and Kent County Council has asked the school to consider the possibility of expanding. In order to achieve this, Kent County Council has agreed to provide funding towards the building project that would enable the school to permanently expand to three forms of entry (90 places per year group). At a full governing body meeting held on 15th July, the governors agreed to proceed with permanent expansion of the school by undertaking a consultation and we would now like to hear your views on the proposal.

Why do we need to expand the school?
Halfway Houses is a popular school and for 2014 entry, 190 applicants selected the school as a preferred choice. There are currently 60 places available, which provides limited scope for the school to meet parental preference and therefore the school agreed to admit 90 children into Year R. This is a temporary arrangement but the governing body would now like to propose permanently offering 90 places for entry into Year R and expand the school to three forms of entry. The school has accommodation to enable the expansion to start on the current site and the new school would be a purpose built three form entry school with all the required facilities for a school of that size. We do not know exactly when the new school will be ready for occupation but it is expected to be, at the latest, September 2017.

It is intended that the expansion would happen gradually, with 30 additional Year R places offered each year, so that the school would grow over a 7 year period until it reached a total of 630 pupils.
How to let us know your views on our proposal to expand the school

The consultation runs from 9th September to 7th October 2014.

A consultation drop-in will be held at the school on Thursday 25th September 2014 from 3.30pm to 6pm where you will have the opportunity to ask questions and give your views. A Local Authority Representative will also be in attendance.

Attached to this letter is a consultation response form and we would be grateful if you could complete this and return it to the school office by 7th October 2014.

Following the consultation, the governing body will meet to consider the responses to the consultation and will then make a decision about permanently expanding the school. We will write to you again to let you know the outcome.

Yours sincerely,

Jane Laker                                          Ryan Driver
Chair of Governors                               Headteacher