January 11th 2016

Dear Parents/Carers, Staff and other interested Parties

Proposed changes to The Canterbury Primary School
(as part of The Canterbury Academy)

We are very pleased to inform you of our plans for changes at The Canterbury Primary School.

The school has been identified by Kent County Council (KCC) as doing particularly well at supporting pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD). We want to use our expertise by creating a new Specialist Resource Base Provision (SRBP) within the school for up to 15 children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

This will be an excellent opportunity for the school to use their knowledge and expertise to the full by accommodating children with ASD in a caring, nurturing environment, both within the SRBP and the school as a whole. This will reinforce The Canterbury Academy’s position as providing inclusive schools for children of all aptitudes and abilities in schools for all the talents. Furthermore, this proposal could give us the opportunity to provide additional places for local children.

Additional funding will be provided to enable the school to provide additional support.

We hope the following questions and answers will explain, in more detail, what we are intending to do at the school.

What is The Canterbury Primary School planning to do?

- The Canterbury Primary School has been asked by KCC to create a new SRBP for up to 15 pupils with Autistic Spectrum Order (ASD). The school is happy to provide the SRBP and is confident that its staff has the relevant expertise and skills to meet the needs of these children. Additional training for staff will also be organised by the school and funded by KCC.

What IS Autistic Spectrum Disorder?

- The children attending the SRBP will have a ‘need type’ of Autistic Spectrum Disorder. Autism is a condition that affects social interaction, communication, interests and behaviour.
How will you work out which children will attend the SRBP?

- A specialist assessment of their needs will identify that they are suitable for a mainstream school placement. The Head and Governors will be invited by KCC to take part in the discussions about which pupils are most appropriate and should be admitted. The Canterbury Primary School will be named on the child’s Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

Will this mean fewer places for local children?

- No. Children in the SRBP will be admitted over the current Published Admission Number (PAN) and therefore no places will be lost.

How much funding will the school receive?

- Each place will bring a minimum of £10,000 per year which will enable the school to provide the additional support necessary to help these children make good social and academic progress.

What will the SRBP look like?

- The SRBP will have its own room within the school where children can receive some individual and small group teaching and help. The school is highly inclusive so children will not spend all of their time in the SRBP but will be integrated into mainstream classes during each school day as appropriate.

Does that mean we will lose a classroom?

- No.
- A space has been identified within the school for the SRBP, including a small office. KCC will carry out feasibility on how the accommodation can best be set up to meet the school’s requirements and will pay for any works and adaptations that are needed. A small grant will be provided to cover start-up costs.

When will the SRBP open?

- It is intended that the SRBP will be in place for April 2016. Initially the class will open with 6 children, increasing to 9 or 10 places in September 2016 and to a capacity of 15 by September 2017.

Tell me more about SRBPs.

- A small number of children with Education, Health and Care plans (EHCP) require higher levels of support than can be provided in their local mainstream schools, but their needs are not so complex that special school placements are appropriate. For children like this KCC maintain a range of Specialist Resource Base Provisions (SRBP) which are based in mainstream schools but reserved for pupils with EHCPs.
We would like your views, should you wish to share them with us, on this proposal and you can have your say by:

- Emailing us at dscott@canterbury.kent.sch.uk
  Or by
- Writing to the Chair of Governors at The Canterbury Primary School. (You can hand the letter into the school.)

If you are intending to contact us with your views may we ask that you please do this by February 12th 2016. All comments and views received will be considered before the Governing Body make a final decision. If the Governing Body decides to proceed, a business case will be submitted to the Education Funding Agency (EFA) for approval by the Secretary of State.

Yours faithfully

[Signature]

P Karnavas
Executive Principal of The Canterbury Academy Trust