



Executive Head teacher: Mrs Kim Wilmer **Head of School:** Mrs Sharon Farish

Twydall Lane, Gillingham, Kent, ME8 6JS **Tel:** 01634 231761 **Absence:** 01634 236949

E-mail: office@twydallprimary.org.uk Governing Body E-mail: clerktogovernors@twydallprimary.org.uk

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Dear Parents/Carers,

The last few years have presented a wide range of challenges and changes nationally, globally and also locally within our schools. As we emerge from this period, we felt it was a good time to reflect on our ethos and values, and review what is important to our school communities. We took time last term to look at the values of all three schools within the Trust – Twydall, Riverside and Rainham Mark Grammar School – and identified common themes and key words that were significant, reflecting each school's vision. As a result, we have chosen nine value words which together make up the word:

'CHARACTER'

This reflects our core purpose: *To cultivate wisdom, character and strength in students so they can understand, celebrate and shape the world in which they live.*

The nine values are:

Curiosity - Fostering a love of learning through an engaging curriculum for all children, developing enthusiastic life-long learners.

Happiness - Ensuring that all children are happy at school – they feel safe, supported and are able to build meaningful relationships.

Aspiration - Being aspirational for all children whatever their starting point, so that each child can reach their full potential and achieve success.

Respect - Treating other people and our environment with care and kindness, modelling good manners, behaviour and attitudes.

Articulacy - Building within our young people the skills and confidence to communicate in a variety of ways to a range of audiences.

Community - Our aim is for the schools to be at the heart of their community; to contribute to local, national and global development and to build memorable experiences within and beyond the school gates.

Teamwork - Working together towards a shared goal and supporting our children to develop the skills required to work collaboratively with others.

Equality - Ensuring everybody has equal opportunity, and is not treated differently or discriminated against because of their characteristics.

Resilience - Building a can-do attitude, being willing and able to face challenges and knowing the power of 'yet'.

These new value words have now been adopted by the family of three schools within the Trust, to reflect our collaborative working and shared goals. In the primary schools, we have added these to our Class Dojo systems and linked them to our positive behaviour approach. We have shared them with the children, displayed them around the

buildings and will continue to talk about each word in detail through whole school and class assemblies. We believe that our new values are a true reflection of our journey to be the very best that we can be, so that we provide memorable experiences and build independent, respectful and successful adults for the future.

I have shared with you a brief description of how we might interpret each word in school and talk about them with the children. I hope that you will explore the new words with your children at home too and help us build 'Character' in all of our children.

Yours sincerely,



Kim Wilmer

Primary Executive Headteacher