



Blossom Federation

Special Update Letter

25th April 2023

This is a special update letter for something very special!

In the Autumn Term, a local charity, *The Stuart Feakins Trust*, approached me to ask if the Blossom Federation could benefit from a hefty donation from the foundation to support our children and families. Naturally, I said yes!

The Stuart Feakins Trust was set up in memory of Stuart who died in 2008 aged only 41. Stuart was dedicated to working with young people in Hackney who had not enjoyed the opportunities he had. He believed in making a difference. One of his amazing qualities was his ability to really listen to and understand young people, share their passions and help them realise their own ambitions. The trust was set up to help young people in London experience new things, define their aspirations and help give them the tools to achieve them.

The trust allocated over £7,000 for the Blossom Federation. The Heads of School and I discussed how we might use the funding to help our children and families in a way which would support the trust's aims and prioritised the following areas.

Support for children new to English

Over the past two years we have welcomed a number of Afghan and Ukrainian children and families to our school. This has been both rewarding and challenging but testament to our inclusive approach and community focus. Children who are new to English require bespoke learning and support which can be difficult in a busy mainstream classroom. In response, we commissioned Sheila Symes, our wonderful former SENDCo at Lauriston to create an early language package designed to help new children in their first few weeks of school. I am pleased to say this was completed at the start of the year and has been of excellent use with some of our new arrivals, as well as being a brilliant resource for the future.

Enriching our curriculum for dual language children

We have been able to invest in a wealth of dual language books for our children. Having materials in children's mother tongue and English is a fantastic resource to develop learning.

Support for our vulnerable families and those without recourse to public funds

We are conscious of many of our families who need additional help, but who do not qualify for funded help from the Government. Our schools have always helped provide uniform, equipment, clothing as well as things for home, but having an allocated budget for this for this year has been invaluable. For some of our families, we have been able to fund holiday provision, extended day places, breakfast club spaces, household items, cinema tickets, toys, books, games, clothes, furniture etc all of which has been gratefully received. We have also been able to fund wellbeing items for children who have experienced some trauma.

I was lucky enough to know Stuart and believe he would have been very happy with how the Blossom Schools have made use of the funding. I am going to share this newsletter with his parents and the trustees of the charity.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robin Warren". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robin Warren
Executive Head Teacher