7th February, 2019

**Bradford Primary Schools Linking Programme**

**Funding Available £500 per class for 2019-2020**

Dear Colleague,

We are writing to invite you to join the Bradford Schools Linking Programme, aimed at pupils in Key Stage 2, starting from September 2019.  The Schools Linking Programme has been running successfully in Bradford primary schools for 18 years and currently works with 45 primary schools and 76 classes; creating curriculum rich class to class links between schools across the district throughout the academic year.

As a result of 'Integration Strategy Communities funding’, we can offer you **£500 per class** to help support the cost of running this project in your school. This money can be used towards the cost of transport for class visits and/or for visit costs or the purchase of any resources that are needed with regards to the linking visits. Each school (regardless of number of classes) will also **receive an additional one-off payment** **of £200** which will pay for your annual subscription fee to us at TLN.

If you are already involved in a link with another school which is not part of this programme, please get in touch as this funding is available to you as well. If you have already have a school you connect with and would both like to take part in the linking project together- please write this on the *expression of interest form* attached or ring us.

Our programme for School Linking has been backed by the Department for Education (DfE).  It is nationally recognised as offering a positive, age-appropriate curriculum contribution to spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils, British Values and the Prevent Duty.  The programme creates real reasons for communicating, is an enjoyable way for children to meet and interact with others and promotes achievement through literacy rich resources.

Linking usually involves the children meeting three times in the year; the first of these meetings normally takes place at an educational visit in a neutral venue, which we can arrange for you at a museum or outdoor centre and then this is followed by visits to each school.  If needed, we are happy to explore other models of linking with you so that the programme is tailored to meet the needs of your school and pupils. As well as meeting, children will also exchange work throughout the year and explore four key questions:

**Who am I?** – exploring identity

**Who are we?** – celebrating diversity

**Where do we live?** – promoting community

**How do we all live together?** – championing equality

Next steps:

1.      Complete and return the expression of interest form below

2.      Upon receipt of your form, we will contact you to discuss your school priorities and a suitable link, your preferred year group, and the number of classes you would like to be involved in the project.

3.      Your linking teacher(s) attend **CPD for a full day in September 2019 and a half day in February 2020** to plan an effective school link with their link partner teacher. CPD sessions include training, Ofsted updates, free resources, input on digital linking, handling difficult conversations in the classroom plus planning time for the pairs of linking teachers.

4.      The first meeting of the children is usually a joint visit by both classes to a venue in the district such as Nell Bank or Cartwright Hall, followed by each class visiting the other school later in the school year. We will support each link according to their individual needs.

5.      The costs to the school of participating in the Bradford Schools Linking Programme are the neutral venue costs per class, transport costs per class to the neutral venue and your link school for the class/es plus a subscription of **£200** fee per school to TLN.(This year we have funding towards this fee for you so this £200 will be sent to you then, after CPD1, we will invoice you for this amount.)

**As part of the package for 2019 - 2020, we will provide your school with:**

* Support and resources for linking
* A British Values pack with lesson plans from Reception to Year 6
* Staff meeting template for SMSC with free training for a member of the school team to deliver a staff meeting on British values.
* Open invite for a training session on Philosophy for Children strategies.
* We also offer free tried and tested resources for SMSC and PSHE to support linking and new resources and assemblies for teaching.

To talk the programme through please ring Linda Cowie on 07969 720150 or Meg Henry on 07814213935 or complete the enclosed expression of interest form and return it to us by email by **Thursday 28th February 2019.** At this point you are expressing interest in joining the programme. Once you are linked with a school you would sign to agree to engage through the year with your link school*.* Please note we have a limited budget to distribute and that

we cannot guarantee that we will find a link for all schools who express an interest but we will hold a waiting list and do all we can to find everyone links.

Yours faithfully,

Linda Cowie, Meg Henry and Nahida Nazir