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13<sup>th</sup> January 2015

Dear Parents and Children,

It is with a great deal of sadness that I have to inform you that Liz Connor-Scahill, the Manageress of The Field of Dreams Nursery has been offered and accepted a new post in Doha, Qatar that she takes up in just over a week's time.

Goodbye Liz,

Of course we wish you the very best in this new opportunity in a Nursery in another country, you will be missed but you go with our gratitude and thanks.

Nearly eleven years ago when the Chief Executive of The Kensington Regeneration Company (KRC) offered us monetary support to open a nursery for babies to 4 year olds I have to say I was stunned. The Governors had offered the land and provision for KRC to build a nursery but legally they were unable to do this and were very keen for us to do it. This to be honest was "a first" so we were scared and unsure whether we could provide this. In fact there were many doubters both locally and in the Local Authority who actually thought we would fail. What was ESSENTIAL for the success of this new enterprise was to get the right person to lead this project even before we opened our doors with the grand opening on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2004 by Lord Putnam (of Chariots of Fire and Teaching Awards fame).

So it was that a young Liverpool lady who was looking to come back from London where she had worked in a number of private nurseries for several years saw our advert for the Manager's job for The Field of Dreams that was being built and put in an application, how lucky we were she saw it! Liz was the "outstanding" candidate and took up her post with a wonderful enthusiasm and fantastic energy as there was "nothing" in terms of equipment or staff. She made us ready for our opening and has been the main reason that The Field of Dreams Nursery is talked about not only with pride but love by the parents, children and indeed the staff, (who use the facility themselves). Liz 's professionalism and desire to provide the "very best" for our parents and children has been what has driven her. Always a smiling face but also always willing to listen and give support on so many different levels to all that needed her. Liz became an important part of the Senior Leadership Team of our Federation

and was instrumental in the setting up of the 2 yr Old Provision not only in the F.O.D but also at St Cuthbert's.

The Kensington Regeneration Company always asked to visit the F.O.D site when Ministers wanted to view how the Government's money had been spent and where the success stories were. Liz had made our Nursery one of these. What few people realised is that we were set ambitious targets to support "local" families and children and we surpassed these by an impressive margin of over 25%. At one stage we were employing over 80% locally with Liz herself moving into the area and taking in over 90% of children from the Regeneration area, working with local agencies to give "free" places, even before the Government thought about this idea. She never left a stone unturned to bring the very best to the Field of Dreams Nursery. Probably one of the biggest compliments I can pay her is that very few people have left our setting (which is unusual in the nursery world where there is a big turnover of staff). The reason people stay is because they are happy and happy staff make for a safe environment to give our babies and young children the very best starts in their lives. Liz's last day is this Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January. They are holding a party in the F.O.D for her with the children, it starts at about 2pm but it is A SECRET don't tell her! I hope many of our present and past pupils will take the time to either see her personally or send her your best wishes. Her email address is [fieldofdreams@st-sebastians.liverpool.sch.uk](mailto:fieldofdreams@st-sebastians.liverpool.sch.uk) or send in your messages or cards via the school office. With Liz going and being granted a secondment for a year, our Deputy Manager Nina Young will provide cover whilst a more permanent appointment is decided upon, more information will follow.

Finally on all our behalf, The Governors, Staff of F.O.D, Staff of the Federation, Parents, myself and especially all our children we wish Liz every success in this exciting opportunity in her career and wish her good health and happiness for her future life. She will always be part of the F.O.D and the Federation and hopefully we will continue to have contact with her via email and skype.

May God bless and protect you and you go with all of our love and best wishes.

Yours sincerely

Dennis Hardiman

Executive Headteacher

On behalf of the Governors, the Field of Dreams and the Federation.