



■ The Mayor, Cllr Milton McKenzie, with Tyler Milan, six, Helen Jenner, corporate director of children's services, and Nellie O'Brien, six

Infants spreads its wings with 'remarkable' £1.5m revamp

'It's part of our vision to deliver best learning experience'

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» New classrooms were opened at Thames View Infants School on Wednesday, offering more pupil places and enhanced facilities for children.

The extension to the school in Bastable Avenue, Barking, includes an expanded hall, two new classrooms, a new computing office, staff room, parents' room and three working areas.

Headteacher Paul Jordan said: "The school has undergone a remarkable renovation and expansion over the past two years to deliver a 21st-century school for our local community.

"This is all part of our vision to deliver the best learning experience possible for children, families and the greater community."

Energy-efficient

Thames View was judged outstanding by Ofsted in March 2009 when it had 360 children on its roll. It can now offer 90 more places.

The new building is heated by air source pumps, providing under-floor heating. Energy-efficient lighting, windows and roof insulation has also been installed. As well as keeping carbon emissions down, these measures will help the school with its bills.

The project's total cost was about £1.5million. Funding

was provided by the Department for Education, a London Thames Gateway Development Corporation grant, the government's School Modernisation Fund and the school's own budget.

Works to expand the school further are expected to be completed this month.

The Mayor of Barking and Dagenham, Cllr Milton McKenzie, said at the opening of the extension: "The school will provide fantastic facilities for children."

Cllr Rocky Gill, cabinet member for education and children, added: "The school will have a positive impact on the pupils and the expansion will help with demand for school places."



■ Headteacher Paul Jordan