



**AMBASSADOR
OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
LONDON**

To the Lithuanian school
"Mano pirmieji mokslai"

14 June 2014

*Dear Teachers and Students,
Dear fellow Lithuanians,*

It is my sincere pleasure to congratulate your school this year on the sixth anniversary of its existence. This very special day shows that our culture is vibrant and constantly developing.

I rejoice with you in the successful activities of the head teacher Simona Staputienė, who founded the school and who is never short of ideas or enthusiasm, and in the efforts of a hard-working group of teachers and concerned parents. One can see from the bright, glowing faces of the pupils how appreciative they are. It is only through the combined efforts and hard work of the adults that it is possible to help young Lithuanians preserve their Lithuanian and those born abroad to learn the language of their parents, as well as to help them become acquainted with the culture and history of our nation and to instil in them a love of and respect for Lithuania.

It is a source of joy that the children in your school are taught in a very creative way, fostering a curiosity in getting to know themselves, the environment they live in, and the land of their parents and grandparents. We are one indivisible nation and regardless of where we live a knowledge of the culture of the country one was born in or from where one's family comes is a key to becoming acquainted with and understanding other cultures, as well as finding one's place in the wider world. It is only by our children understanding their roots and those of their parents will the whole world be opened up to them in all of its myriad colours!

I am heartened by your enthusiasm and determination. With the move to more spacious premises I know that you will continue to encourage the children under your care to take part in any initiatives hosted by Lithuanian and the United Kingdom, to inspire them to explore, to create and share their achievements with others. Let us together create a better future for our children and Lithuania!

*With my very best wishes of success,
- Artūras Šlaugintautas
Ambassador of Lithuania*