



**31 March 2016**

**Dear Parents**

You may be aware that as a result of the reorganisation of the education provision within Berkhamsted, the academic year 2015-16 sees Greenway at its largest in terms of pupil numbers. From the academic year 2016-17 the school will gradually reduce in size to a one form entry primary school. We thought it might be helpful to update you on some of the things that the Governing Body has been involved with so far this academic year.

**Ofsted/Standards**

The school has not had a visit from Ofsted since November 2011 when it was judged to be “outstanding”. Since then there have been many changes within the school and within the education world generally not least in the way in which schools are inspected by Ofsted. The Governing Body, Head and Senior Leadership Team ensure that standards are maintained within the school with the support of an external advisor who visits the school termly. Amongst other things the external advisor undertakes observations of lessons and work; meets with staff, pupils and the Chair of Governors and considers data. We are delighted to report that notwithstanding the very many changes faced by the school it is judged outstanding in all areas - effectiveness of leadership and management; quality of teaching and learning and assessment; personal development, behaviour and welfare; pupil outcomes; and effectiveness of the early years provision. We would wish to thank all staff for all their hard work in achieving these great outcomes.

**Statutory Responsibilities**

September 2014 saw a huge amount of new legislation coming into force including a new Special Educational Needs Code of Conduct and new Assessment Procedures along with a new national curriculum. This academic year, the Governing Body has continued to monitor, support and challenge the school with regard their increased responsibilities under this new legislation whilst still continuing to carry out their pre-existing responsibilities.

In the Autumn Term the Governing Body has to complete an annual Safeguarding Return to the Local Authority which was duly carried out. You may also recall that in the Spring Term the Governing Body has to undertake an annual health and safety inspection of the school and finalise a financial standards return to the Local Authority both of which have also now been completed.

**Attendance Policy**

You will be receiving a separate letter in connection with the changes in dealing with attendance and in particular unauthorised absences. Governors monitor on a termly basis pupil attendance and pupil late arrivals at the start of the school day. We are delighted that attendance at Greenway is generally very good. However, it is important that you are aware that the law has now changed and that parents/carers who fail to respond to requests made by the school to send their children to school or, who take unauthorised holidays during term time (as detailed within the school’s Attendance Policy) may be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice by the Local Education Authority. Specific guidance has been given by the Local

Authority and is attached to the school's Attendance Policy which you can find on the school website. Further detail is contained within the separate letter from the Headteacher and Chair of Governors on this topic

### **School Plan**

You will be aware of the abbreviated version of the school plan for Greenway for 2015-16 which can be found on the school website. Governors are assigned specific links to the priority areas within the school plan and visit school regularly to observe all the very considerable work that is being done by the staff to implement these priorities. Written reports are then prepared by those link governors which are presented and considered at the twice termly Governing Body committee meetings and termly full Governing Body meetings. For example, amongst many other link visits, individual governors have been welcomed into school to learn about the implementation of the new curriculum across all areas; how school tracking and monitoring is undertaken by the Head and her Senior Leadership team under the new assessment procedures; how pupil premium money is being spent and the impact of this upon learning; how sports premium funding is being used; and the impact of the new Behaviour Policy. Governors have also enjoyed attending visits by external visitors to the school and school events.

### **Training**

Governors regularly attend training to help support them in their role – whilst these sessions are sometimes held with the whole Governing Body, governors also attend training with governors from other schools both in Berkhamsted and further afield in Hertfordshire.

### **Pupil Premium Funding**

A key focus continues for governors namely to demonstrate the impact of the funding on those children who are eligible to receive it. You will find details of eligibility for Pupil Premium funding on the parents landing page of the school website. Should you have any queries about your child's eligibility for this very important source of funding, we would urge you to discuss the position with the Head – any money received by the school will directly benefit **your child**. You will locate details of how Greenway spends Pupil Premium funds and anonymised information relating to the impact of it upon the school website.

### **Behaviour and Anti Bullying Policies**

Having launched a new Pupil Behaviour Policy in 2014 we have now developed a revised and improved Anti Bullying Policy details of which are on the school website. We are delighted to continue to hear from those many external agencies supporting the school in a variety of capacities that they have nothing but praise for the manner in which Greenway staff support pupils with their behaviour.

### **Questionnaires**

With the support of Parent Forum revised Parent/Carer and Pupil Questionnaires have been prepared by governors and your responses and those of your children will be considered by us over the course of the coming weeks to help the Head and Senior Leadership team consider priorities for next year's school plan.

### **New Governor**

As you may recall we had a vacancy for a parent governor before Christmas. No-one came forward from within the parent body when the position was advertised. As a result we are



actively looking to recruit a co-opted governor from the community and will keep you posted in this respect. Whilst at times it can be demanding it is also an immensely rewarding position and a real privilege to be involved with the strategic direction of the school which we hope you feel is going from strength to strength. Should you wish to discuss the role of a governor further do feel free to contact the Chair of Governors, Elizabeth O'Reilly, through the school office.

### **Sporting, Music and Other Achievements**

We have been delighted to hear from the Headteacher within her termly report of the very many sporting achievements of an incredible number of pupils over the past few months and would like to congratulate all involved in these successes. We are also aware of the increased musical opportunities being afforded to pupils and are very much looking forward to seeing the KS1 production this week.

May we take this opportunity of wishing you all a relaxing break over the Easter holidays!

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Elizabeth O'Reilly

**Chair of Governors on behalf of the Governing Body of Greenway Primary and Nursery School**

