



Dear Parents,

**Re: Berkhamsted Schools Reorganisation**

7 June 2013.

Heads and Chairs of Governors of all schools within the Town met on 14 May to discuss the stage reached with the re-organisation of education provision within the Town. We thought that it would be helpful to formally report to you upon this.

Heads have been continuing to meet formally and informally to discuss and plan for the re-organisation as well as leading and running their individual schools. Whilst monthly meetings relating specifically to the re-organisation have been held there have in addition been the normal half termly meetings attended by Heads within the town used to discuss the more "day to day" issues arising from running a school.

Chairs of Governors of all schools within the Town continue to meet on a termly basis.

A Steering Group has been established comprising representative Heads, Chairs of Governors and Local Authority Officers to support the process of change.

Planning is now well advanced in the following areas:

Human Resources: the Local Authority has supported Heads in facilitating the movement of staff across schools as they undergo change. A great many "professional dialogues" have taken place with those staff at risk under the reorganisation and the vast majority have now been placed. As schools change there will be further professional dialogues taking place with staff deemed at risk in years to come which will follow the protocol established by the Local Authority.

Greenway has supported the Early Years staff at risk throughout this process and announcements will be made as to who will be your child's class teacher in the normal way at the end of the summer term.

Training: the Local Authority has worked closely with Heads in identifying training needs for all members of staff at both Primary and Secondary levels which will inevitably facilitate the smooth integration of staff moving into different schools.

Greenway will not be changing to a one form entry primary school until September 2014. Staff at Greenway are all primary trained but are nevertheless involved in all relevant training at this stage.

Premises: all schools that require building works to facilitate their change in age range have been in extensive discussions with the Local Authority; project managers and contractors etc and work has now started (or is planned) to be ready for pupils in September 2013.

Greenway does not require additional space for September 2013 and so there are no immediate building works planned. However, we are in discussions with the Local Authority as to what future accommodation may be required in the years ahead.

Resources and Equipment: all schools have undertaken an audit of resources and equipment; items are being moved between schools as appropriate; new resources are being ordered; and the Local Authority has agreed to those schools subject to change this year as having three extra preparation days to support staff facilitating the process. Greenway's term ends on Wednesday 24 July 2013.

Preliminary consideration has been given by Greenway to those additional resources that will be required for its transformation to a one form entry primary school in September 2014 but the detail will be finalised in the next academic year.

Finance: the Local Authority is providing financial support to schools to support the re-organisation as well as money to provide for the additional building works.

Travel: the Local Authority are working closely with Heads in identifying the issues that are of most concern to parents and are working together to try and find solutions.

Travel to and from Greenway has always been an issue and we would again encourage as many parents as possible to walk to school. Links with other local groups are being forged looking at eg parking within the Town.

Future Provision: Heads and Chairs of Governors are very aware of the need to plan strategically and are seeking a meeting with Schools Planning from the Local Authority in September 2013 to discuss future provision within the town.

Communications: a website has been established at <http://www.berkhamstedpartnershipofschools.org/>. to provide a broad summary of the stages reached and key information albeit there are also direct links to individual school websites where school specific information may be obtained.

Greenway has worked hard to communicate with you at key times during this time of change and will continue to do so particularly engaging Parent Forum as appropriate.

We appreciate that this is an unsettling time for pupils, parents and staff but are immensely encouraged by the amount of time and energy being invested by all involved with the re-organisation and are confident that with your support the future education provision within the Town will go from strength to strength.

Should you have any queries please feel free to contact us.

Yours faithfully,

Katharine Weston  
Headteacher

Lorna Ginn & Elizabeth O'Reilly  
Co-Chairs of Governors



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