



4 April 2014

Dear Year 4 Parents/Carers,

I am writing to inform you of some of the increased opportunities and changes we have been planning for as Greenway becomes a Primary school in September. Over the year, I have been involved in many discussions regarding transition with the other Berkhamsted Head Teachers firstly to ensure consistency with those schools which are also due to become Primary schools this year and secondly to learn from the experiences of those which already have Year 5 and 6 children. I have also had feedback via your Parent Forum representatives. Outlined below are some of the things we have planned for your Year 4 children as they enter Year 5.

ICT and teaching resources

Since the school will be increasing in size over the next two years, one of the things we have been focusing on is increased provision of ICT. We are upgrading the ICT infrastructure to enable the school to have a class set of I Pads and laptops. We are also in the process of purchasing higher level reading texts to challenge your child further and offer them a variety of rich quality texts as well as purchasing resources to support delivering the other areas of the curriculum.

Sport

I know that many of you are very interested in what increased sporting activities and specialist sports teaching will be provided next year. Unfortunately, the provision of specialist teachers is not sustainable on Primary school levels of funding and therefore Greenway will not have a dedicated sports teacher. You will be aware however that we have been working closely with Ashlyns where their Year 11's have visited Greenway to run multi-skill sport activities with Mr Jones their Sports teacher and also to train our Year 4 Sports leaders.

From September, as a result of having Year 5 children, Greenway will be able to participate in all of the inter-schools competitive sport which is promoted by the Dacorum Schools' Sports Partnership. The GSA has agreed to fund an official Greenway sports kit for inter-school matches and competitions.

Breakfast club and WACCY

I am aware that the demand for places at Breakfast Club and WACCY is very likely to increase over the next two years because of the fact that there will be no year group leaving in July. We will therefore be looking to increase the provision of both clubs for this September. In terms of after school clubs and activities, we are constantly looking for opportunities to introduce new subjects and would welcome suggestions from parents.

Class groups

Please can I clarify that as in previous years the children will remain in their current class groups as they move into Year 5 and the children will continue to be taught in ability groups for Maths and English. They will continue to be taught the other curriculum areas in their registration class groups. As in previous years, your child's teacher will not be finalised until

July, however, I would like to confirm that all of our teachers at Greenway are primary trained and qualified to teach across the whole of the Primary curriculum.

There will be no change to Greenway uniform. Toilet provisions will remain the same. In respect of separate changing facilities for PE, please can I reassure you that all teachers are very sensitive to the children's needs and will arrange for them to change separately as necessary. I also do not intend to introduce lockers to the school.

Independence and responsibilities

The staff and I are very aware of the need to encourage greater independence of children in Years 5 and 6 and thereby support their transition to Secondary school. As usual, pedestrian training will be carried out in the summer term of Year 4 and cycling proficiency will be offered in Year 5/6. As set out in the minutes of the Parent Forum meeting on 11 March, a considerable amount of work has been initiated by the 'Safer Routes to School' team. As you may be aware, some crossing 'hot spots' have been identified. The one which impacts most on Greenway children is at the junction between Greenway and Gilbert Way.

The school will gladly support all parents who would like their children to walk to and from school independently. I would ask however that you wait until after the pedestrian training and that you ensure your child's class teacher is aware of the situation.

As reported in the Parent Forum minutes, I am considering a number of potential roles for children in Years 5 and 6 which will help to increase their sense of responsibility and personal accountability.

Music

We are currently working closely with the Music service to look at further ways we can enhance the music provision in school for example starting up a Brass club after school, which we recently wrote to you about. We will continue to offer guitar and choir in school time as well as recorder/ ukulele club after school. As with PE, due to having Year 5 children, we hope to be able to organise with Mrs O'Brien to take part in a number of musical events with the choir. Due to limited space we will not be able to offer further peripatetic lessons within the school day however, we will provide you with contact details as to where your child would be able to access these lessons after school.

A meeting for parents will be held in July as part of the programme of transition meetings that are held annually for particular year groups. From reading this letter I hope you have gained a deeper understanding about the preparation that is going into planning for Greenway to become a Primary school.

Have a lovely Easter.

Katharine Ellwood



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