



Dear Parents and Carers

30 March 2015

As Greenway has now been a primary school for nearly two terms, we thought it might be helpful to update you on some of the things that the Governing Body has been involved with during this time.

Statutory Responsibilities

With a huge amount of new legislation coming into force last September, the school and Governing Body have had a lot of new policies and procedures to get to grips with relating, amongst other things, to the new curriculum; the new Special Educational Needs Code of Conduct; and the new Assessment Procedures (as reported to you on 13 February 2015). These now form part of the Governing Body's rolling programme of review of policies, procedure and curriculum.

The Governing Body has many statutory responsibilities to fulfil including in the Spring Term an annual health and safety inspection and the completion of a financial standards return to the Local Authority both of which have now been completed.

School Plan

You will be aware of the abbreviated version of the school plan for Greenway for 2014-15 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; how pupil premium money is being spent and the impact of this upon learning; how sports premium funding is being used; how Big Write is being delivered in the classroom; and how the outdoor learning environment is being utilised.

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.

Pupil Premium Funding

Our most recent training session on 24 March related to Pupil Premium – a key focus for governors is 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 impact upon the school website.

Behaviour Policy

At the beginning of the academic year, we were very involved in the launch of the new Behaviour Policy developed with the school and your children and we will be reviewing the impact of this next term. We are delighted 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

The 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.

You may be aware that there is an Ofsted on line parent survey available through the Ofsted website. Whilst we very much appreciate all those parents/carers/children who have taken the trouble to complete our own in house Questionnaires, we would encourage you to also complete this additional very short survey on www.parentview.ofsted.co.uk – it should take no more than 5 minutes! At the moment there are only two parent responses given for this year and eight in total for the last four years! Ofsted will inspect the school at some point in the future and we would like to demonstrate that responses have been made to both their own survey and our in house questionnaire.

Analysis of the feedback given by parents on last year's schools reports has been undertaken and this has been fed back to the Head and Senior Leadership for them to take forward in what will be a new style of reports at the end of next term.

Safer Travel to School

Should you not have had an opportunity to do so we would urge you to consider signing the on line petition at consult.hertsdirect.org/petitions relating to the traffic on Shootersway which closes on 31 March – both parents are able to sign it! The traffic along this road is only likely to worsen which will directly impact upon many children and their families.

With road safety in mind the Governing Body and school have been delighted to support the Berkhamsted Schools Joint Travel Forum in the production of a "Road Monster" video and look forward to seeing the finished film in due course.

New Governors

We will be seeking to appoint some new governors for the start of the new academic year in September 2015 and would urge you to consider whether or not this might be a role that you would be interested in. 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.

May we take this opportunity of wishing you all 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

