

Governing Body Review of the Year 2015/16

As we are approaching the end of the summer term, here is a summary and review of the last academic year in which we are delighted that the school's 50th anniversary is being celebrated.

Governing Body Membership Changes

Andy Fleet stood down as a parent governor during the autumn term. We are most grateful to him for his support and assistance during his time on the Governing Body.

We are delighted to announce that Nick Brown has been appointed as a co-opted governor with effect from 7 July. Nick is a chartered surveyor who lives in Tring with a young family and we look forward to working with him over the coming years.

Actions taken by the Governing Body through 2015/16

School Plan for 2015/16: With the Senior Leadership Team and our external advisor, we have continued to monitor the School Plan, particularly in its teaching and learning objectives and those targets set for pupils' achievements and standards.

Standards: This year has seen the school at capacity following its transition to a primary school in September 2014 – we have had our first Year 6 cohort! We know how hard staff have continued to work to support pupils and parents as the school has gone through the process and we remain extremely grateful to them for all their efforts. We are particularly delighted with how smoothly the first ever Year 6 SATs exams for Greenway were managed by the school. All the evidence we have reviewed to-date shows that the school has continued to deliver a seamless and outstanding education for all pupils notwithstanding the many changes staff and governors have continued to face particularly with the new assessment procedures. This year's results will be finalized in the Autumn term whereupon they will be assessed by the school with the Governing Body. However, it is worth noting, that even based on the preliminary data that we have for Greenway (and the data that is beginning to emerge regionally and nationally), the indications are that this school's performance has been as positive as we had expected it to be. These results do not happen without highly professional and well led staff, who receive our praise and thanks. However, in respecting the amazing contribution that parents/carers make at Greenway we would also like to thank you all for your part, with particular praise to those of you who volunteer to come into school to support children with their reading throughout the year. If you would like to assist with volunteering next year, please contact the school.

School Plan for 2016/17: Governors, working with the Head and Senior Leadership Team set the strategic direction of the school and monitor standards, acting as a 'critical friend' and holding the school to account. Every year, during the summer term, we support the school leaders in agreeing a plan for the coming year - you will be provided with a summary of this separately in the autumn once it has been finalised at our Governing Body Strategy Meeting early in the new academic year.

Budget: We have agreed a balanced budget for the forthcoming year and you will receive a summary financial statement shortly which will also be placed on the school website. Governors undertake regular visits to the school to be appraised of the administrative systems used by them and are very pleased that the School Gateway electronic payment system continues to be well supported by parents.

Pupil Premium: Governors monitor the spending of Pupil Premium to ensure that the money received is used in the most effective way for the benefit of those particular children eligible for it. You will see a summary of how this money has been spent on the school's website. We are delighted that external providers of support services used by the school continue to praise the school's exemplary approach in how pupils' needs at Greenway are supported.

Premises: Governors support the school in monitoring a rolling programme of improvements. The old ICT suite has been transformed into two rooms available for meetings and to support children who need some 'space'. The Key Stage 1 toilets have been upgraded and the roof above the Early Years classrooms has been replaced. Work will be undertaken on the windows in the hall and upon the hot water system during the summer holidays. The school's site manager, John Rapson, remains key to ensuring the smooth running of these various projects and we thank him for this. Alison Hoffman has been instrumental in undertaking work to the borders in the outdoor spaces around the school to make these more attractive and pupils have been of great support in ensuring plants have been kept watered.

Parent Forum: We would like to thank all parents/carers who have been on Parent Forum this year and all those who have fed views in to their representatives. The Greenway Parent Forum continues to prove an effective method of communication between school and parents – this will continue to be chaired by Nigel Wiggins who is also Vice Chair of the Governing Body.

GSA: Governors have been pleased to work with the school and GSA in supporting many fund raising events. The money raised has been invaluable in supporting the school in delivery of our Art Week, Sports Week and our Science days. It has also helped fund some of our special visitors and theatre groups.

Governor training: All Governors undertake training annually to support them in their roles and responsibilities and regularly visit the school to monitor areas of the School Plan not least this year to consider provision made for those pupils with special educational needs and subject leadership in non-core areas of the curriculum. However there have also been visits associated around science and sports provision; the Behaviour Policy and around the use and impact of Pupil Premium funding; statutory health and safety and safeguarding visits; and attendance at school events such as assemblies. Governors also work hard to keep abreast of political and policy developments in education, to make sure that Greenway is well placed to take advantage of any opportunities that arise and to manage any challenges particularly as funding streams for school budgets are being reduced and the role of academies within the national education system is very much on everyone's agenda.

School Website: Governors and school leaders are keen to keep the school website up to date with school activities and hope that parents have found it of interest and use over the past school year – there has certainly been a huge amount going on, culminating this year in events marking the end of primary education for all Year 6 children moving on to secondary school! Fiona Duck has supported the school with additions to the website.

Parent/Pupil Questionnaire and Staff Survey: Governors Lou Collins and Beth Baylay have again been instrumental in preparing, carrying out and reporting back to you on a parent and child questionnaire – you have been sent results in this respect separately. We have also undertaken a staff survey this year which was coordinated by Alison Hoffman and feedback from which has also been used in the school planning process.

Behaviour: Governors have been involved in reviewing and updating the school's Behaviour Policy (launched in 2014) with the school's leadership team and pupils and with input from Parent Forum. As you are aware from our governor update dated 31 March, we have also implemented a completely new Anti-Bullying Policy to sit alongside the Behaviour Policy. We would remind you that details of both policies may be found on the school website. We are particularly grateful to Lou Collins and Beverley Murphy for her involvement with this.

Sport: We have been delighted to note the even greater increase in sporting opportunities for children in the school this year, ably led by Mr Loczy and our Sports Apprentice Mr Lewis who is to remain with Greenway next year as a teaching assistant. We have this year introduced a Team Selection Policy and will review its effectiveness in due course but are delighted at the very many sporting successes enjoyed by so many pupils. We will continue to monitor the use of Sports Premium funding and provision of sport across the school next year.

Music and Other Achievements: We have been very pleased to hear from the Head teacher of the wonderful musical occasions enjoyed by so many of the children throughout the year culminating recently in a splendid end of year concert in the Ashlyns Chapel. The Head teacher also advises us within her termly report of the many external visits (day trips and residential) experienced by pupils and we would like to take this opportunity of thanking all staff and parent/carer volunteers for facilitating these trips and giving the children so many happy memories.

We are looking forward to working with the school in the new academic year.

Wishing you all an enjoyable summer.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Elizabeth O'Reilly

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