



Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> July 2016

Dear Parents

We are rapidly approaching our summer break and, as always at this time of year, the children are becoming very excited with anticipation and the Staff are becoming very fraught with all the necessary end of year tasks that need to be done in preparation for September!

As most of you are aware, this year has been quite a bumpy one for the Staff in school as we changed many of our procedures and processes in order to address the comments of our Ofsted Inspector. I would like to support the Staff wholeheartedly for the way they have rallied to the necessary changes.

Each term we are closely monitored. Again, as you know, we received a monitoring visit from Ofsted in the Autumn Term. That visit was very supportive of the plans we had in place to implement change within the school to improve the learning opportunities for your children. In the Spring Term we were once again monitored, this time by our School Improvement Partner who acknowledged that a lot of changes for the better had been put in place. However, at the time of his visit, the changes had not been sufficiently embedded to have achieved significant improvement.

Last week we had our third and final visit of this academic year. The school remains a school that "Requires Improvement" but no-one should be disheartened by this because this judgement will not be changed until we have a full inspection, probably in 2017. However, I am very pleased with many of the comments that are written in the SIP report.

- **The effectiveness of leadership and management:**
  - Teaching over time is improving.
  - The Head of School (Mrs Hutchinson) is taking an active and effective role in helping the school to improve.
- **The quality of teaching, learning and assessment:**
  - Teaching has improved at Key Stage 2 and is now improving in Key Stage 1.
  - Teaching in the Early Years has also improved over the year.
- **Personal development and welfare:**  
(This area is graded good)
  - Personal development was not a major issue on inspection, however, it is still given appropriate attention to ensure it sustains this. Pupils were very positive about how well they are cared for in school. They were also quite knowledgeable about staying safe. Pupils know about some different cultures and current issues. Pupils enjoy coming to school and the majority attend well.

- **Behaviour:**
  - Due to an improved curriculum pupils are now more engaged, they enjoy coming to school and behaviour for learning has improved as they gain confidence in their achievements.
- **The outcomes for children and learners:**
  - Outcomes have improved significantly in the Early Years as the provision has improved over the year.
  - Outcomes at Key Stages 1 and 2 are improving.
  - The teaching of phonics has improved.
- **EYFS**
  - With the support of the Local Authority the provisions, both indoors and out, have changed significantly and have improved.
  - The pupils can now experience a wider range of effective learning opportunities.

I am sure that you will agree that these positive comments are a wonderful way to end our school year.

I have agreed to continue to support both of the schools in the West Tyne Federation (Greenhead and Henshaw Church of England Primary Schools) and will, therefore, be returning in September.

One final piece of good news: all of our pupils that were challenged in this year's Phonics Check passed (100%), naturally we are absolutely thrilled.

May I wish you all a happy and safe summer and I look forward to working with you all in September.

Yours sincerely,

*J. Meek*

Judith Meek  
Acting Executive Headteacher