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Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

### **Chair of Governors Update 1**

It's been very busy in school since the Ofsted report was published, and I wanted to drop you a line with an update of what's been going on.

The action plan has been completed and submitted to Ofsted. A copy of the action plan will be available on the website under 'Inspections' next week. There are some acronyms and abbreviations in parts of it, so please ask if there is something that you don't understand. It may still be subject to some changes with Ofsted's approval, but we will put any updated versions onto the website.

Meetings have already taken place with the Head Teachers from Brookfield and Oliver Tomkins and plans are in place for them to conduct the Maths and Writing reviews. As well as this, they are timetabling the class benchmarking activities. I have attended a Governors meeting at Brookfield where the governors agreed to release their head teacher to support our school. Ms Mills and Mrs Branscombe have also visited both schools and met with the head teachers.

As mentioned at the Parents meeting, we have recruited three new governors in order to strengthen the Governing body, particularly with experience in teaching and Learning. The New Governors are Jan Milsom, Erica Milsom and David Hardcastle. We are extremely fortunate to have secured all three of them, as they all have extensive careers within teaching and school improvement. Their full details will be available on the school website in the next two weeks. We have already met as a governing body and all governors new and existing are absolutely committed to ensuring the school follows the action plan and makes the improvements needed. We have also begun the Review of Governance which has been very positive so far.

We talked at the parents meeting about the fact that being a Stand-Alone Academy (SAT) has led us to be quite isolated and that this contributed to not being as up to date as we should have been in terms of changes within the Ofsted framework. Because of this we (and other SATS in our position) must look to join a Multi Academy Trust (MAT). This means working within a group of schools, and under an additional level of accountability. This is something that we will be investigating over the coming months. The process to join a MAT is slow (6-9 months approx.), even when you have found one you want to work with. It is very early days for us, and I don't have any information to share as yet, but I will let you know as soon as we know what our options are. What does happen straight away is that the Regional School Commission (RSC) will issue us with a termination notice. This is the start of the process which says we won't be continuing as a SAT in the future. A termination notice does not mean the school is going to be closed, just that our status as a SAT is going to stop. The termination letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

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Finally, Mr Hogan has decided to take up a new challenge in September, so will be leaving at the end of the summer term. Mr Hogan will be missed in school, especially by the football team. We all wish him the very best of luck in his new role. We are recruiting to fill the vacancy within school and look forward to confirming a new appointment in the next few weeks.

Yours sincerely

Clare Lindley  
Chair of Governors