

# HILLOCKS PRIMARY AND

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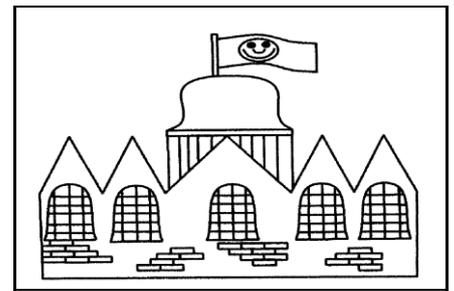


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Head of School: Chris Gibbon  
Executive Headteacher: Ed Seeley



# NURSERY SCHOOL



Friday, 09 June 2017

## First progress letter since Ofsted inspection

Dear parents / carers,

Staff in school have been working very hard following our Ofsted judgement and we feel that it is really important that we keep you informed of our progress to date and also clarify a few questions around the implications of the inspection for our school.

We're also committed to improving our communication with you, which I know is an area a couple of parents have expressed concerns about. For example, we are sending this letter out the week after half term (rather than just before) so that you have the chance to come and speak to us if you have any questions. Staff are updating the school's website more regularly with information that we hope you will find useful.

Firstly we'd like to reiterate a couple of messages from the parents' meeting we held on 8<sup>th</sup> May. A number of you were concerned about the school now becoming a sponsored academy and also felt that all parents were not aware of this fact. We can confirm that it is the government's policy that any school judged as requiring Special Measures must convert into a sponsored academy. The school will not be in a position to choose the sponsor; one will be assigned by the DfE.

We'd also like to introduce our Executive Headteacher, Ed Seeley. Ed is headteacher at Edgewood Primary School and has been supporting us since July 2016. With Louise Regan's secondment to the NUT and the Ofsted judgement, it was decided that he should support us more closely. Ed will be working one day a week at Hillocks (on different days each week) to help support the school's current leadership.



As part of strengthening leadership we have also conducted a review of roles and responsibilities across the school.

Our new leadership team is:

Ed Seeley	Executive Head
Chris Gibbon	Head of School
Margaret Newcombe	Acting Deputy Head
Rick Gasgoyne	Key Stage Two Leader
Rebecca Houghton	Key Stage One and English Leader
Katy Richards	Early Years and Foundation Stage Leader
Charlotte Adams	SENDCo

If you have any concerns about any aspect of your child's education, then please go and see your class teacher first. If they cannot help, you should then see the relevant key stage leader. Only if they then cannot help, or if it is a serious safeguarding concern, should you go to see Mrs Newcombe or Ms Gibbon. If you feel your concern can only be dealt with by Mr Seeley then please contact the school to arrange an appointment. Please provide some details about the reason for your appointment and who in the school you have spoken to already so he will be able to help resolve your concern. Please note he is only in school 1 day a week and it may be a couple of weeks before he will be able to meet with you.

From the Ofsted report you will know that the school was tasked to improve three key areas:

1. To improve leadership and management.
2. To improve the quality of teaching, learning and assessment to rapidly improve outcomes for pupils.
3. To improve pupils' development, behaviour and welfare.

We have written a thorough action plan and which we regularly review. The following are examples of some of the progress we have already made against the plan:

- In addition to the improvements to leadership detailed above, clear subject leaders have been identified and will be receiving training on how to lead their areas effectively.
- Over the next half term, WITLO weeks have been set up in each Key Stage. WITLO stands for 'Week in the Life of' and is an opportunity for leaders to observe teachers; look at children's work in books; speak to children about their learning and together with class teachers and analyse data. We then come to a shared understanding of the quality of teaching and the actions needed for further improvement.
- Further training on effective use of assessment and tablets for the teachers to assess children's learning as they teach, thereby helping improve the quality of teaching.
- Higher standards of presentation are being implemented by updating and sharing the revised policy with children. (It can be found on the school website.) Staff will be insisting all children adhere to this policy with support where needed.
- Clarifying expectations has led to opportunities to write at length across the curriculum for children being consistently ensured by all staff.
- A member of the office staff is now taking responsibility for overseeing attendance and punctuality issues. Regular monitoring of lateness and persistent absence, with rapid intervention where needed is in place. A new attendance policy, with tougher sanctions, written.

We would like you to continue to support the school by:

- Making sure your child is in school every day AND arrives on time.
- Encouraging them to read every day.
- Practice their spellings and timetables.

If you would like more details on any aspect of our development plan or progress towards achieving it or you have any concerns about anything in this letter please arrange a meeting with Ms Gibbon, Mrs Newcombe or Mr Seeley.

Yours faithfully,

Chris Gibbon, Ed Seeley and Margaret Newcombe