



BURWELL VILLAGE COLLEGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Causeway
Burwell
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19th June 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

You will be aware that, back in March, Burwell Village College (Primary) School had an inspection by Ofsted which judged us to be 'Requires Improvement'.

Following that, the Local Authority has issued the school with a 'Warning Notice' in accordance with Section 60 of the Education and Inspection Act 2006.

The Warning Notice outlined significant concerns the Local Authority have, which are: -

- Leaders have not acted quickly enough to address the school improvement priorities identified since the previous significant concerns letter in 2016
- Governors have not actioned all the improvement points identified in the Governance Review of April 2017
- Governors have not accessed appropriate training and support to carry out their monitoring role and to hold the school to account.
- Leaders have a secure knowledge of the quality of teaching and learning throughout the school but have not used this knowledge to ensure underperformance is addressed
- There is a lack of current evidence that progress is being accelerated to meet at least expected standards in 2017/18 and 2018/19.

As a school we acknowledge that there are things to improve but throughout this whole process we must not forget the strong and positive aspects of our school which Ofsted also identified. This includes: the good Early Years' provision; effective support for vulnerable pupils; pupil respect and good behaviour; and that, "the "school leadership team has a good knowledge about the many strengths and weaknesses of the school and there is a determination to drive improvement". It is the knowledge and drive of the staff and Head which we are harnessing to make the required improvements. The capacity and engagement of our staff is often praised, and we need to ensure that they are supported to make the required changes and improvements. Without their continued drive, standards will not improve.

As you will know, the school had been through a period of change since the previous Ofsted (in 2012) with staff changes (affecting 8 of the 16 classes), major building works and lack of sustainable funding all being reflected in the pupil results. This must never be taken as an excuse but it does add valuable context to the situation at Burwell.

Since our latest Ofsted (March 2018), the School's Senior Leadership Team (Head, Deputy and Phase Leaders) have worked relentlessly to address the key issues and have compiled a plan for further school improvement. This plan sets out clear priorities and key actions which will be monitored by both the Governors and the Local Authority. Copies of these plans have been sent to the Local Authority, with the key areas of improvement being:



Objective 1: To improve the effectiveness of leadership and management by:

- Ensuring that plans for improvement show how leaders and governors will measure the intended impact, particularly on pupils' outcomes
- Improving the skills of governors to challenge leaders further and check that information is accurate

Objective 2: The curriculum is broad and varied however pupils do not study subjects in sufficient depth.

- Improving how teachers assess how well pupils achieve across a wide range of subjects
- Ensuring that the curriculum provides opportunities for pupils to study a range of subjects in depth, and
- How the wider curriculum (Topics) can be further used to apply their literacy and mathematical skills.

Objective 3: To improve the quality of teaching, learning and assessment and accelerate pupils' progress by:

- Equipping teachers with better skills to teach reading particularly comprehension skills.
- Promoting assessment skills that ensure that pupils are challenged and moved on in their learning particularly in maths.

To support this, the Governors have devised an annual calendar so that regular and timely monitoring of the school against its Action Plan is taking place. To ensure that leaders' actions are improving the school rapidly enough, the Governors have already planned regular scrutiny of the School Improvement Plan and pupil attainment data with the Head and Deputy; termly meetings with the Phase Leaders to see the improvements in the Phase Action Plans and their impact on the pupils' attainment, backed up with visits to the school to see the improvements in action.

Governors are actively reviewing the outstanding actions from the Governance review carried out last year and this will be carried out before the 26th June.

Both the Headteacher and I have been invited to a meeting with the Service Director of Education at Shire Hall to demonstrate how the school (SLT, staff and Governors) plan to expedite the changes required, to rectify both the concerns of the LA and the Areas of Improvement identified by Ofsted.

A brief summary of the progress made during the remainder of this year will be given to parents at the end of the year in the Governors' Newsletter.

Yours sincerely



Davyd Andrew
For and on behalf of the Governing Body
Burwell Village College (Primary)