



# Great Hollands Primary School

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Headteacher: Richard Ferris

Newsletter ... Newsletter ... Newsletter ... Newsletter ... Newsletter ... Newsletter ... Newsletter... Newsletter...

December 2016



## Dear Parents and Carers

Over the past few days we have really begun to feel the festive fun. As ever, our amazing PTA – FroGs (Friends of Great Hollands School) have been working hard to run some Christmas events that are fun for the children and also raise money to help buy fantastic equipment and resources for the school.



Last week's Christmas Disco was fantastic and the Christmas Fair was a real success! So on behalf of all the children at Great Hollands Primary I would like to offer our thanks to all the volunteers for their efforts – you are all brilliant.

Please do offer to help out at these events or they may not happen in the future! If you are willing to offer your time at future events please give your name to the office, reply on the feedback sheet, contact via their facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfGHPS/> or email FroGs PTA: [frogspta@gmail.com](mailto:frogspta@gmail.com)



We were all obviously very disappointed by the recent Ofsted inspection, and whilst we feel that it does not accurately reflect our school, the process has highlighted some areas that we will improve. We have already begun implementing changes and we are planning more to come in the next term.

To give you a better understanding of what we are doing to address the issues raised I have attached an overview of the areas identified for improvements and an update on what we have already begun to do to address them.

If you have any questions about the improvements or the inspection process, school leaders and governors will be available to discuss the actions we are taking on **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December between 4 and 7 pm** in the school hall. This is an informal drop in session and you do not need to make an appointment, you can visit any time between 4 and 7pm. Tea and coffee will be available. As ever, if you wish to make an appointment to discuss any aspect of school life please feel free to call the school office to arrange an appointment at a suitable time.

Thank you for your continued support and encouragement. Wishing you all a merry Christmas.

**Richard Ferris**  
Headteacher

## **Areas for school development as highlighted by the recent Ofsted inspection.**

### **School leaders accurately evaluate the work of the school**

We are working closely with Bracknell school advisors and with our local cluster of schools to evaluate our work and improve accuracy. We have begun a collaboration with Wildmore Heath School in Crowthorne, to help us evaluate what is working well in school and in turn improve the accuracy of our judgments. School leaders have been visiting other schools to explore how they evaluate their work and have taken ideas and procedures to incorporate into our school systems.

### **School improvement planning is sharply focused on the impact the school's actions have on improving outcomes for pupils'. School leaders and governors monitor all aspects of the school's work and adjust plans and procedures to promote rapid improvement**

Our school planning had been too focused on what we were doing to improve and less on what impact our actions have had. To improve this, we will design new termly improvement plans to start in January to replace the current yearly ones. We aim for this to provide a sharper focus on the impact of our actions and what new actions need to be taken in the following term. We will review the impact of our actions and then adjust the next terms plans and promote rapid improvement.

### **Effective, up-to-date guidance is provided by school leaders to all staff on assessment procedures and that these methods are implemented effectively**

The school has now begun to use new guidelines which will make it easier for teachers to identify which pupils have achieved the objectives that need to be learnt in each subject. The new documents will help teachers to track the progress of pupils against the new national curriculum objectives and identify where pupils have gaps in their understanding. Teachers will then improve their accuracy when planning learning opportunities to match the needs of the children. School leaders have been monitoring the use of the new resources and have been giving feedback to staff on the most effective ways of using the system.

We are aware that many of our children, although performing well in class, did not show this ability in the end of year tests in 2016. To address this, we have purchased new in-year tests to support teachers to better assess how well the children are performing both in class and under test conditions. This will provide opportunities for our children to be more 'test ready'.

### **Systems and procedures for recording, monitoring and reviewing incidents are robust.**

Our inclusion team have already devised a new online tracking system to record and monitor incidents that occur in school. The new system will provide school leaders with an overview of concerns and help to spot patterns and trends that may need addressing.

### **Middle leaders' skills are developed effectively to enable them to have a greater impact on improvements in teaching, learning and assessment.**

Middle leaders have been undertaking leadership training over the past year and are now much more confident in their role. From January, roles and responsibilities of staff will be reviewed and teachers will be working more closely together in teams to support each other.

**The school's curriculum is further developed to engage and excite pupils in a wide range of learning across all subjects.**

This term we have reviewed and re-designed our planning for the curriculum. We will be incorporating more 'stunning starts' to topics and will culminate learning with 'end events'. We believe that our curriculum provides a rich and diverse range of learning opportunities, to improve this further we have invested in a Maths consultant to work with our leaders to re-write our approach to mathematics – making it more hands on and real. We are also planning to invest in support for our curriculum from a provider called PiXI which has been successful in helping other local schools develop their curriculum for the better.

**Pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and their understanding of British values are embedded.**

We believe this is a strength of the school, teachers are effective in educating the children in morals, social skills and our children are very tolerant and open to differences of others. To help this improve even further we have invested in a school wide scheme called Jigsaw. Jigsaw provides a common language and style across the school. We hope this new resource will support teachers' delivery of this important area of school life as well as providing children the opportunity to build on the skills taught year on year and make even better choices as they move up through the school.

**Raise expectations of what pupils can do and the progress they can make.**

Teachers are being challenged to set more stretching targets for pupils. More work is planned to help children build resilience so that they feel confident to learn from their mistakes rather than being upset by them. We will be enhancing our work on Growth Mind-sets in the new year and we aim to support children to have a 'can do' attitude. We will be asking more of our pupils, in lessons, and working to create a hard work for success ethic across the school.

**Increase teachers' understanding of assessment and the progression of knowledge and skills in each subject and make sure teachers' assessments of pupils' learning are accurate.**

The introduction of the new national curriculum and new assessment system (removing levels) has caused confusion nationwide. Over the past year teachers have gained a deeper understanding of the new curriculum. To increase understanding we will now work more closely with other schools to compare pupils work and to improve the accuracy of teacher judgements. Teachers will now be working in curriculum teams across the school to provide the opportunity for staff to work together to gain a better understanding of the progression of knowledge and skills in each subject. We are reviewing our in-school training sessions to give this area a higher priority to swiftly increase teacher skills in this area.

**Use assessment information to adjust plans and learning in lessons to provide sufficient challenge to all groups of pupils.**

The school has introduced new, more stringent monitoring systems to ensure teachers are more accurate when planning lessons. We are introducing more training sessions in the new year to help teachers use assessment information to make sure work is set for children, that is at the correct level of challenge. We have increased our focus on ensuring work given to the most-able pupils is sufficiently challenging and provides opportunities to deepen their understanding.



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## Feedback Form

Please let us know your thoughts on school life ... You can tell us anything for example:

Well done I really like ...

Please pass on my thanks to ...

My child says it's really good when ...

I would like more information on ...

Can I have some help with ...

I am unhappy about ...

Please try to improve by ...

I can help in the school with ...



My child is in Year \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ (optional)