



Langley Hall Primary Academy

From: Sir Christopher Ball, Chairman of Governors

13 July 2016

Dear Parents,

The report of Ofsted's inspection of 24-25 May found that staff and parents widely supported our head teacher's vision for the school, that pupils were well behaved, and that they were generally kept safe. Yet it found the school "inadequate", solely because it thought – incorrectly – that details of safety checks for a single supply teacher had not been on file before he started work here.

The report contains many inaccuracies. Therefore, the governors applied for and won an unusual High Court order requiring Ofsted to hand over, within three weeks, all the notes and information on which it relied in forming its view. The court also agreed to our barrister's request that an independent Ofsted-trained inspector should compare Ofsted's information and notes with the school's information; that his report should be put before the court; and that, if he confirms the governors' view that Ofsted got its facts wrong, the court will hear the school's case for setting aside the report and obtaining a fresh inspection.

Additional internal and external audits have found that we have been and are keeping our records of the staff's safety checks properly. The local authority's schools liaison officer agrees that no pupil has at any time been at risk. The unprejudiced opinions of these authoritative and independent sources reflect the excellent education the school provides, the happy and supportive environment our pupils enjoy and the hard work, dedication and commitment of our staff, including Catriona Eadie, a regionally well-known specialist in keeping pupils safe from all abuse and harm.

An independent review of the school, conducted after Ofsted's inspection, has found the school to be "Good" in all areas. Also, the Key Stage 1 and 2 results for this year, as well as the progress statistics for all year groups, show that our pupils are achieving well above the national average in all subjects. The school's senior football team won the Slough primary schools' tri-league championship this term, and the senior choir has brilliantly performed the Coronation anthem *Zadok the Priest* in two-part harmony (believed to be an unprecedented feat for a primary school).

You may be sure that our priority remains the good education of your children, the duty of care we have to them, to you as their parents and to our staff, and the smooth running of the school. As soon as the independent expert has identified those of Ofsted's concerns that are genuine and well founded, we shall prepare and carry out an action plan to improve the school still further. That plan will be put in place as soon as the court has considered the independent expert's report.

In the meantime, on behalf of all the governors, I should like to express our full support for and confidence in our Executive Head and her team, and our congratulations to one and all on the academic and sporting achievements of the school in this past year.

We are holding a 'Drop-In' day for parents tomorrow (Thursday) in the Bijou at Upper School from 8.15 am to 6.15pm, at which our senior teaching staff, several governors and our external consultant will be available to answer any questions you may have. You are warmly invited to come in at any time during those hours. On our school website, www.lhpa.co.uk, you will find the Ofsted report, the school's response to Ofsted's report, a copy of our recent school review conducted last week and our recent attainment and progress data. If we can do anything else to help, please ask.

Yours sincerely,

Christopher Ball