

# Greenslade Primary School

Erindale

Plumstead Common

London SE18 2QQ

Telephone: 020 8316 6847

Fax: 020 8855 6767

E-mail: [office@greenslade.greenwich.sch.uk](mailto:office@greenslade.greenwich.sch.uk)

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# Greenwich Education Service

Headteacher: David Ashley

Deputy Headteacher: Helen Nichols

Senior School Admin. Officer: Sue Kidd

Premises Manager: Garry Jay

Senco: Bernadette Kearney

## Respect Inspire Achieve

Dear Parents and Carers,

I want to share my ongoing pride in being Greenslade's Headteacher. As the papers continue to be full of discussions about the uncertain future of schools and the absolute shambles of assessment and testing, our children continue to receive a wonderful and rich education. We remain in a fantastically strong place to face whatever the future holds; our principles and philosophy are based on what is best for our children rather than political policy. In the last two weeks we have welcomed a number of visitors to Greenslade, including teachers, School Improvement Partners, parents and professionals from outside agencies. I have observed our children learning in many lessons and I spend an enormous amount of my day in classrooms. I believe I know extremely well what is happening and am very pleased with what I see.

A visiting teacher who I observed teaching one of our classes could not believe how "motivated, hard working and articulate" our children are. Another said she was "surprised at their levels of understanding and how carefully they thought about their learning". Our School Improvement Partner spoke about the "lovely calm environment, how well the children behaved and how polite they were". I showed a new parent around last week and she was bowled over by the "lovely, happy atmosphere". There are still many areas that we are developing and working to improve but we are certainly on the right track!

We continue with our Early Years profiling, our Key Stage 1 assessments and we are at the start of our Key Stage 2 SATs week. I want to tell you how hard our children and staff have been working to prepare for this challenging time. Our children are really "stepping up to the plate" and I am so proud of their motivation and determination. The staff have prepared them meticulously and planned in enormous, painstaking detail to ensure that our children are in a position to achieve to the best of their ability. Our staff know their children so well and despite the incredible changes and raised expectations in the curriculum in all year groups teachers have worked tirelessly to plan inspiring learning experiences that engage the children and teach them in the most appropriate learning styles. I do not know what the outcomes yet, the Government are unsure and unclear of the new expectations and they are the hardest set of tests primary children have ever faced. I cannot emphasise enough how hard these new tests are. However I do know that our staff and children have done everything possible to achieve our very best. I also want to praise the integrity and honesty of my staff under such a pressurised situation.

A couple of mundane "housekeeping" points to finish. Children must wear their school uniform every day and bring the appropriate kit for PE. It is only fair to everyone that all children wear the same uniform and it is a wasted learning opportunity for children to be sitting out of games, gymnastics or dance.

Please see and keep the dates that are printed on the reverse of this letter. They maybe subject to change but are accurate at this time.

Yours sincerely

David Ashley, Headteacher.



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