



Brightlingsea Junior School

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Headteacher Mrs. C.E. Claydon

19th April 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

Following on from our previous letters to you the governing body have been getting on with the task of looking at our options for the future of the school. In particular, during the last week of term before the Easter holidays, we had a number of meetings - with Thrive Academy colleagues, our Infant School colleagues, Essex Local Authority and Department for Education representatives. The governing body met last night to review progress.

As you know Ofsted rate us as a 'Good' school and we believe that our strong teaching and support staff provide an excellent all round learning experience for all our children. Indeed our standards have continued to rise since our 2015 inspection. However a new term 'coasting' school has been introduced by the government to better identify those schools which might benefit from additional focus and support to ensure all pupils are fulfilling their potential. The coasting school definition was approved by Parliament mid-January 2017. Our most recent maths progress score was -2.6, which was one tenth (0.1) below the benchmark of -2.5. Reading and Writing progress were above the coasting benchmark and all 3 progress measures were above the Floor Standard. You can see from this data that the school has marginally tipped in to the coasting category. On our website you can find an STA information document for parents that explains the new style progress measures for Key Stage 2 <http://www.brightlingsea-jun.essex.sch.uk/news> Please be aware that the category of 'coasting' only judges end of Key Stage data and not teaching and learning nor the broad and balanced curriculum that your child receives.

In response to notification that we met the coasting schools criteria we provided the Regional Schools Commissioner Tim Coulson with a detailed account of our school's achievements and overall provision, setting out the actions we have already taken and will take to bring about rapid improvement particularly in Maths. Our recent Year 6 'mock SATS' week has shown that our 2017 Maths results are on track to improve on last year. You can read a copy of our coasting schools report and other relevant documents on our website <http://www.brightlingsea-jun.essex.sch.uk/news>

During the Easter holidays we received a response from the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) thanking us for the information which, he stated, showed that we are working to address the challenges. He agreed we would benefit from some additional support to meet these challenges. Yes we are a good school, but we absolutely must plan for the best arrangements to secure stable long term continuing improvement. Exploring joining the Multi-Academy Trust 'Thrive Partnership' is a part of this work to secure long term school improvement and we will shortly reach a decision about our preferred approach. Certainly the RSC is clear in his letters to us that joining a multi-academy trust is a means to secure the necessary support. Confirmation of our preferred approach will go to the Regional Schools Commissioner for him to consider. As we are designated a 'coasting' school, there is no consultation process; it will be Tim Coulson who makes the final decision, not us.



We hope that this letter reassures you that although the school is just inside the 'coasting' criteria, actions to address this are being taken on a daily basis by a strong leadership and teaching team. We do understand that there is some anxiety amongst parents regarding the decisions that must be taken to secure further long term improvement and we will keep you informed about developments.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Alan Johnstone', written on a light blue background.

Alan Johnstone
Chair of Governors

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Claydon', written on a white background.

Claire Claydon
Headteacher