



June 2015

Dear parents and carers

SpLD specialist outreach service to relocate to Thomas Coram

As part of the reorganisation of schools in Berkhamsted, the Specific Learning Difficulties (SpLD) base needed to be moved, in order to release a classroom at Westfield Primary School.

The Berkhamsted headteachers, and members of the local authority, discussed options for the SpLD service's relocation. There was a strong desire that the highly praised professional outreach provision that is currently based at Westfield School should remain in Berkhamsted and that the reorganisation of schools in Berkhamsted, which has been so successful, should not be responsible for our local service moving out of the town.

I am delighted to announce, on behalf of the governing body, that Thomas Coram will become the local host for specialist SpLD outreach provision and I will become the lead headteacher, supported by the local authority.

The SpLD base comprises specialist teachers who work with 30 schools in the Dacorum area. Our school will house their resource centre, where up-to-date reading books and other materials are displayed, and be a venue for courses and training with professionals in the Dacorum area.

Our governing body is determined to maintain and raise standards and provision at our school. They will evaluate the benefits that providing this service for other schools has on the learning, attainment and progress of our pupils, as well as drawing on the expertise of the specialist teachers for our own staff's professional development.

This additional responsibility will have a small impact on my personal leadership time, which will remain focused on your children and our staff. The new specialist staff will be supporting children based at other schools but, naturally, will be available for our pupils and staff to consult, as we already do.

I am excited at the prospect of having some very skilled additional teachers based with us and about working with Dacorum schools on supporting both pupils and staff in improving provision for our local children.

Full information will be available on our website over the summer and we look forward to welcoming our four new staff formally in September.

Yours sincerely

Mr R Halls
Headteacher