



Headteacher: Mr M Drakes

18 December 2012

Dear Andrew,

I am writing to express how happy my pupils, parents and staff are with their new Nursery and Early Years facilities. It is now very close to the end of the term, but we would be delighted if you could come down to see the new building if you have time in your diary in January.

Without a doubt the building that HBS have completed is a million miles away from the awful environment that the pupils and staff have had to put up with. In order for our pupils to have the best chance to close the gap on their peers from more affluent areas, it is essential that they have a high quality start to their education. We now have a proper EYFS unit. The classrooms are spacious, well-furnished and allow the pupils access to the state of the art ICT facilities which the other children have enjoyed for a little over a year.

I cannot state enough how being able to move the Early Years over will have a further transformational impact on the achievement and attainment of Broadford pupils. I am sure that you would have seen the recent data, which confirms what we already knew to be true. Broadford Primary has leapt forward in the last 16 months – to the extent that we are now the leading school within our postcode for progress, attainment and attendance. The building program of the Local Authority and the support that you have shown us plays a large part in this transformation.

On behalf of the pupils, parents, staff and Governors I would like to thank your team for helping the transition to be as smooth as possible. Gary Moreland and Mark Trimby particularly have been very helpful. As a constant source of advice and support, they have helped us keep our focus where it should be, on getting the teaching and learning right.

I would also like to make it clear how good the relationship with HBS has been during the build. We have been impressed with the quality of the work carried out, their flexible approach to working around the children and the innovative ideas they have had to overcome problems. We have also benefitted from their support to help ensure all aspects of the KSI and EYFS classrooms are ready for January.

Looking ahead to the New Year, I am very excited about what the future holds for this school. After a long period of under achievement we are now primed for further improvements. Our pupil numbers have continued to rise steadily (from 307 to now over 360). All the signs are that

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this expansion is going to only increase in the next few months. No more will parents be worried about the quality of education their children will receive at our school. With the newest facilities, best exam results and our friendly welcoming ethos, I expect us to be the first choice for families moving into the local area.

With that in mind, I would be grateful if you could reassure me about the timescale for the infill classroom that is due to be added to our KSI block. My Governors and I must have this project completed by the end of the Summer term. Assuming that the build will take at least 16 weeks and HBS already have 6-8 weeks left to complete the outside area, that already accounts for six months. In our recent experience of building works, there are always delays. If there is not a green light given to a contractor very soon after Christmas then there would already be the danger of the classroom not being completed in time. During the EYFS project we managed to cope, but only just. The old building is no longer in a fit state to house classes, even on a temporary basis. The boiler has failed, the fabric of the building is in quite a state of disrepair and it is removed from all of the ICT facilities we have in the new building. It cannot be factored into any timings that if the infill wasn't ready we could just teach a class in the old building.

Following the successful completion of the Nursery build, our preferred contractor would be HBS. We already have a good working relationship with them. They have shown themselves to be high quality, conscientious contractors whilst on site with us. They know the site, the drainage issues and have prepared drawings. It would make it much easier if they could carry on with the infill classroom rather than start all over again with another contractor.

So far the school has made rapid progress out of special measures. I feel confident that at our next inspection we would be able to secure a grading of good. However I am mindful that projects like this could derail this improvement if they do not run to time and begin to impact on school organisation. Certainly we appreciate that this is a challenging time for the Authority as you plan to meet the ever increasing demand on school places. At Broadford we are more than happy to help in any way we can. The expansion to two forms of entry was warmly welcomed by all members of the school community. However we must not let the quality of teaching and learning slip back. I know that you would not want this to happen either.

I look forward to hearing from you about when the go ahead will be given for work to start on the new classroom. Please contact me directly to organise a visit to the school if you would like to come and meet us.

Yours sincerely

Malcolm Drakes  
Headteacher  
Broadford Primary