



Welcoming | Involving | Evolving  
Oxhey Early Years Centre

## Letter to Parents from the Chair of Governors July 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

As usual at this time of year I am writing to you on behalf of the governors of the Nursery school to let you know about our work which aims to ensure that everything is done to make your family's experience at Oxhey Early Years Centre happy and successful.

There is much to celebrate at the end of this year. On July 3rd, governors were pleased and proud to welcome the elected mayor of Watford, Dorothy Thornhill, to the Centre. She opened the **lovely new Rainbow garden** and was present as the first group of children began to play on the climbing equipment and perform in the amphitheatre. We have been able to add this wonderful resource due to the efforts of Cathy Gunning, the previous Head of Centre, who coordinated the original planning and initiated the application to the Awards For All Lottery Fund. Donna Ellis, our Centre Business Manager, and Rachel then obtained a matched grant from Tesco's Bags of Help. Donna took on the onerous job of project management and was supported by Emily Strange in ensuring that the design of the garden met the Centre's high standards as a teaching and learning space for all. We would like to thank everyone who has helped in any way to bring this project to its successful conclusion. We are sure that the garden will be very well used for play and outdoor learning into the future.

As has already been reported to you, in December last year the Nursery school was judged **Outstanding by Ofsted** for the third time. Governors would like to thank you, the parents and carers who took the time to tell the Inspector how much you value the experience your children have at the Centre. We are sure also that you would join us in thanking Rachel for her successful leadership and all the staff whose hard work, commitment and skill was recognised during the inspection. The children's exceptionally good behaviour was commended as was their care for each other and their positive attitudes to learning.

Governors learn about the work of the Centre by attending two meetings each term, where the Head and other staff give their reports. In addition they come into the Centre on governor monitoring visits each term and spend time observing and talking to members of staff.

This year we have welcomed new governors, Anneka Wilson and Melanie Knibb, and we are also delighted that Ali Southam is back with us. We have said goodbye and thank you to Tarwa Mohammed and Jennifer McStravick and wish them well. We currently have **vacancies for two parent governors**. If you are interested please get in touch with Rachel. We would particularly welcome people with financial backgrounds and skills.

Governors attend visits made by our Herts Improvement Partner, who is a headteacher of a local Infant and nursery school. She helps us to review the work of the Centre and the progress and attainment of the children and to manage the performance of the head.



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Governors do their best to contribute to the development of the Centre and to support the **wonderful team of staff** who work tirelessly to ensure that the Centre welcomes all the families and meets their needs. We wish to thank all the staff – the practitioners and teachers, those in the office, who deal with the huge volume of administration, the caretaker and cleaning staff on whom we rely so much to make the Centre a safe and attractive place to be.

We should also like to thank you the parents and carers who have supported the Centre by attending events and contributing in all kinds of ways. It was lovely to see so many families enjoying the recent Fun Day. Particular thanks goes of course to the members of the **Parents' Association** for all their fund raising efforts.

We hope that the phonics **workshop** was helpful – your feedback seemed to indicate that you found it so. We hope also that **Tapestry** has proved a useful tool for communication between your child's key person and yourselves.

In the spirit of the Centre's vision, '**Welcoming Involving Evolving**' the Centre staff always welcome your involvement and views about initiatives such as these.

As you will have been informed, from September the Centre will be offering the **30 hours free education/childcare** for some 3 and 4 year olds of working parents. The eligibility criteria and information on how to apply have been made available in the Centre and on our website.

We would like to remind you also that you can contact any governor with your questions or comments. We are ready to listen and believe we can always try and improve our policies and practice. Our details can be obtained from the Centre office. The Minutes of our meetings are of course public and are available in the office should you wish to read them.

Very best wishes for a pleasant summer to you and your family.

Yours sincerely,

Madeleine Lake  
Chair of Governors, on behalf of the Governing Body of OEYC

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