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20th October 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Walmore Hill School Update

As we approach the end of this first term, I would like to write and congratulate the whole school on what has been an exciting and extremely busy seven weeks.

At one point our school was double the size it was in June. We were only 6 places from being 'full'. This is, of course due to the intended, yet sad closure of Minsterworth School. The existing pupils and staff had to react relatively quickly to this rather swift injection of pupils into an already lively school.

Many of our new children are from Traveller families. Throughout my career I have always been inspired by a motto 'All Different, All Equal'. This motto is never clearer than presently at Walmore Hill. It is a lovely sight to see the children all mixing, making friends and most strikingly, working together as a team. This applies to all of the children, and many of our 'new' parents have commented on how friendly and welcome they themselves feel when they come to school.

The influx of children has led to a major change – our third classroom is open again and we have a new teacher. This in turn has meant that we have smaller class sizes, which has meant that we can also be very focused in the way we support your children in school. I am, however, always looking to improve things, and am hopeful that in the future there will be other developments in school which you will approve of.

I would therefore like to urge any of you to feel free to come and spend some time with us, and see for yourselves what an exciting, flexible and yet purposeful school environment we have. One of our long standing governors, Tamsin Terry-Lush visited Walmore Hill recently. One of her duties as a governor is to report back on her visits. Here is an excerpt from her report:

'I feel really confident that the changes are only affecting my daughter in a positive way and wanted to share this with you. One of my worries when the school was very small was the impact this had on her social skills and ability to make friends and the increase in numbers means she has many more kids to get to know, the school is buzzing! I also know that Mrs Evans is separating the kids into different learning groups for different subjects and this means many of our children are in smaller focused groups for Maths and English and Reading, giving them more 1:1 time with the teachers and more opportunity to progress and learn. I just wanted to write to share some of this with you in case you weren't aware or were worried about the impact of more children in the school. We just want to ensure every child in our school is getting all the learning opportunities they deserve regardless of their age, ability or circumstances outside school.'

I am very proud to lead such inspiring pupils, and dedicated staff.

Have a lovely half term with your children.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brett Stevenson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brett Stevenson

Headteacher