



**Brookfields**  
Specialist SEN School

February 2014

Sage Road, Tilehurst, Reading, Berkshire RG31 6SW

Dear Parents/Carers

Mrs J Headland, B Ed [Hons], NPQH **Headteacher**

**Headteacher's Report**  
**Spring Term – February 2014**

Traditionally this is always a short half term and usually I am worried about the possibility of snow affecting the opening of the school, this year it has been the succession of tremendous storms that have been making the headlines. We did lose some strips of fascia boards during the Christmas holidays but nothing like the damage and distress some families are now experiencing locally and nationally. We all wish those suffering such damage a steady recovery as soon as the weather improves.

Kim James, our SIA (School Improvement Advisor) visited early in January and spent a day talking to staff, visiting classes and observing maths and numeracy teaching throughout the school. I am still awaiting her written, formal report but verbal feedback was very encouraging. She advised that the teaching she observed was all good or outstanding, the maths interventions are proving to be extremely beneficial, the school reflected, very well, our key priorities for our work this year and the data and factual analysis of pupil progress was both accurate and clearly illustrated the significant achievements made by many of our pupils.

Parents and carers have been into school on a number of occasions, ranging from individual meetings to a well attended coffee morning supporting the 'Great British Brekkie' and our Parents' evenings to discuss your child's individual achievements and progress. It is always hugely encouraging to meet and talk to so many of you at these events and for the topics of conversation to be so positive.

Requests for places at Brookfields remains as high as ever and we are initiating discussions with both West Berkshire and Reading relating to our pupil numbers moving forward. As you are aware having secured a DGCF (Demographic Growth Capital Fund) grant last Easter we are currently planning a new extension to our 6<sup>th</sup> Form building to accommodate specialist teaching rooms and possibly some therapy rooms. I will keep you informed of our progress.

Last week I attended a South of England Headteachers' Conference for special schools in Torquay. Speakers from other schools, HMI and Ofsted described current ideas and thinking concentrating particularly on pupil's individual learning needs, the importance of employability, communication across the curriculum and the new EHC plans (Education, Health & Care) that are starting in September 2014. It was a very worthwhile and informative two days.

As ever I continue to be impressed by the enthusiasm and creative passion that all staff at Brookfields continue to demonstrate, their hard work and continuous efforts are so important to ensure your children enjoy school, make good progress and are challenged to achieve the very best they can. I await the performances of the 'Lion King' with great anticipation and wish you all the very best for the half term break.

**School returns on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February**

Yours sincerely

Mrs J Headland  
**Headteacher**

Mr B Mills, B Ed [Hons], NPQH  
**Deputy Headteacher**

Mrs S Attra, B Ed, NPQH  
**Deputy Headteacher**

Mrs C Bernie, M Ed, BA [Hons]  
**Assistant Headteacher**

