Dear Parents and Carers,

Having the privilege of being the Head Teacher at Stanhope for just over twelve months now, I am writing to you on behalf of our Governors and staff.

This is to share with you the progress and improvements that we have made in this short space of time to our school.

- A greater sense of community and purpose for everyone in our school
- A more caring and nurturing environment where all children are valued and encouraged to succeed
- An increased ambition to do the best we can for the children at Stanhope
- Improved outcomes and progress across the school especially in Early Years, Year 1 Phonics screen, as well as end of Key Stage 1 and 2, so that we are now broadly in line with what pupils achieve nationally
- Enhanced outdoor spaces in Early Years, in Key Stage 1 playground as well as a programme to renew and improve our Key Stage 2 playground this Autumn
- Greatly increased pupil numbers, as more families choose to send their children to Stanhope – we are full in all Early Years classes and now have two classes in every year group throughout school
- More celebrations of children’s fabulous learning and achievements
- Wider opportunities for great learning beyond the classroom with a wider range of after school clubs, visitors and support from the wider community
- A warmer welcome at all times in school for all visitors
- Improved communication with and more positive feedback from pupils and families, with a continual drive to improve.
We are fully aware of our improvement priorities for this academic year, which are in our school development plan, and have already been working hard towards them. They are as follows

- To increase levels of achievement to at least the 2018 national benchmark in Reading and Writing at KS1 and KS2 in both attainment and progress, including vulnerable group
- To increase the number of pupils working at greater depth within the expected standard for all subjects
- To maintain the level of persistent absence below the national average and ensure the level of attendance is at least national average
- To continue to support the emotional well-being of pupils and staff
- To work towards the Dyslexia Quality Mark for Schools

All staff and Governors are fully committed to achieving these aims, and will do their best to ensure that this happens.

Thank you once again for all your support. We value feedback at all times, and will continue to act upon this, so we can further improve our school.

Please find attached a copy of our latest Ofsted report, (the second in under eight months). We do not believe that this most recent report fully reflects all the improvements made in such a short time to our school.

We continue our improvement journey with as much ambition and determination as before. If you have any questions regarding the report, please speak to myself or any member of the Stanhope Team, including Governors.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Calderwood and the Stanhope team