

15<sup>th</sup> November 2016

Dear Parents/Carers

### **National Support School**

The staff and I, at The Vale Primary, are delighted to have been asked to continue as a National Support School (NSS), supporting other schools in challenging circumstances. With the NSS designation the Vale Primary will continue with the national recognition of being a 'Teaching School'.

At the same time we congratulate our Executive Principal, Mr David Waterson, who is one of more than 80 headteachers to be appointed to the role of national leader of education (NLE) in the latest recruitment round. Mr Waterson continues to work across The Vale, England Lane, Simpson's Lane and Willow Green, supporting myself, the other heads and leaders to ensure our the children receive the highest quality of education and support. Mr Waterson joined our group in September, from our sister Academies in Hull, where as Executive Principal, he oversaw the Hull group consistently outperform the national average for a number of years, despite working in inner city areas of high challenge and deprivation.

Roger Pope, Chair of the National College for Teaching and Leadership, said:

*"It's fantastic that heads like Mr David Waterson have the passion and ambition to help improve the life chances of young people, not just in their own but in other schools as well."*

*"The aim of national leaders of education is to drive improvement in underperforming schools. We now have over 1,200 NLEs and we're working to increase this number further to spread educational excellence everywhere."*

We are ever so proud of our re-designation as a national support school, we believe it is a reflection of the hard work of the staff, children and families at The Vale have shown, to ensure The Vale continues to offer outstanding learning to our community.

Yours sincerely

Mr Yeomans  
Head of Academy