



14/3/23

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you will know, our Ofsted inspection took place in February. They have now published our report and so I have attached a copy for your information.

We are proud to share that the behaviour and attitudes and personal development of our children were judged as good. You will know that we place a high priority on mental and physical health because of the wealth of opportunities we offer and the packages such as Melva and CareFirst that are available to children, families and staff. It was positive to receive the validation that the changes in our behaviour policy over the last two years have had a positive impact with bullying being described as rare and a clear message that any incidents are swiftly dealt with. Our children are safe and treat each other with respect and kindness. They have welcomed new peers, including those from other countries as a result of the curriculum that is in place.

We were pleased that the inspectors recognised the value of the support in place for staff. As you know, our staff team have been working hard to bring about the changes needed to curriculum and on a personal note, I am pleased that they feel so well supported by me. It is important that our team are well looked after and supported to develop and make the positive changes with confidence. We have invested in training with research schools in a wide range of foundation subjects and training with specialists in relation to retrieval practice and SEND. We have been well supported by the Trust with further training for middle leadership development and development with all subject areas. The impact of this is evident with our end of year results which were at and above national levels in early years and year six. We know that there is more work to do to ensure that even more children reach these expectations. We are proud that the inspection team recognised the work that has taken place to ensure pupils with SEND receive the same ambitious curriculum as the rest of the school.

You will read in the full report that the changes that we have put in place are not all embedded yet. It is right that we have an ambitious curriculum and, as you know, we have not yet taught all of the units of work as it is a two-year cycle. The inspectors made a judgement that mirrors our own evaluation of the school, that the ambitious curriculum is not yet fully embedded and as a result have made a judgement that we are a school which requires improvement. This means just that: we need to do better in some areas to be securely good. While we would rather not have this label, we are not daunted by the challenge to improve and are pleased that the inspectors noticed many aspects of our school which are already at a good standard.

Upon reading the report, you will certainly pick up on what the Ofsted inspectors saw: namely there are so many positives. In fact, there were only a few words within the 'good' classification that were not securely met. The inspectors were very clear in their feedback that the school has made great strides forward and is moving in the right direction. We were pleased that the strengths of the school were so evident to the inspection team. Some of their findings, following their time with staff, parents, children and looking at a host of books, reports and other evidence included recognition of the progress made since the changes have been put in place and the positive way in which our children respond to each other. They recognised the inclusive practice we have and the way that we ensure a range of experiences are available to everybody.

You have attended parent consultations and received information about the progress that your children are making so you will be aware of the positive experiences that your children are having and the impact this has on them as individuals and as learners. Last year our data in early years showed that the children were achieving better than other schools across the country with our data being 7% above national figures. Similarly, in phonics, our results were strong with 90% of the year one children achieving the required standard in the phonics decoding check. By the end of KS2, children were achieving in line with national averages following the hard work of our teachers to help the children catch up with their lost learning.



Most children are achieving at a much faster rate than this time last year. This is as a result of a lot of hard work from children, staff, parents and the Governing Body to effect change and improvement. Our teachers are working hard to deliver the curriculum for their year group alongside supporting catch up as a result of the pandemic and historical gaps in teaching quality. Within our Ofsted feedback. It was confirmed that we are firmly on the right track and just need time to consolidate this.

Before I leave the subject of Ofsted, I'd like to thank parents for being so supportive when feeding back to the inspectors, in person and through the online questionnaire. The vast majority of feedback given was overwhelmingly positive and I thank you for sharing this. I would also like to remind anybody who does not share these positive views that I am happy to meet to discuss any concerns or to have an open discussion in one of our parent forum events.

Make no mistake: we are on an upward trajectory, thanks to the hard work of our staff team, our children and you as parents. Indeed, with your help, I'm looking forward to building upon the successes of the last two years so that, when the inspector calls again, (in 24 -30 months) s/he will see some good and outstanding achievement and progress and reward the school accordingly.

We are going to continue working hard to improve the school this year – and into the future - so I'm certainly glad that I can count on so many of you to help us, to challenge us and to encourage us to keep on striving to do better. There will be a meeting for parents on Wednesday 15th March at 2pm and repeated again at 6pm, where governors and I will give a presentation explaining the report and how we are moving forwards.

Kind regards,

Mrs Jennifer Thornton

Headteacher