

Thursday 23rd April 2015

Dear Parents and Carers



RE - Ofsted Inspection 19-20 March 2015

As you know we had a full Ofsted inspection last term and the report has now been published. If you receive emails, a copy will be emailed to you; if you do not receive emails, a copy can be found on our website or a paper copy can be collected from the school office.

This letter will explain the outcomes of our latest inspection; how we have improved since our last inspection; the things we do well, areas for development, and our intended next steps.

Ofsted use 4 gradings, with 1 being the best. These are explained on page 8 of the report. We were graded as the following:

| | | |
|---------------------------|---|---|
| Leadership and Management | 2 | } This gives us an overall grading of a 3 |
| Behaviour and Safety | 2 | |
| Early Years provision | 1 | |
| Achievement of Pupils | 3 | |
| Quality of Teaching | 3 | |

We know it seems strange that the overall grading is a 3 when this is not the average of the 5 gradings, however, Achievement is a limiting judgement. We have made huge strides in Achievement over the past 3 years and are now achieving above national levels in many areas. Unfortunately, the inspection team felt we were not yet far enough above national expectations in the areas of writing and most able pupils for Achievement to be graded good. Ofsted were in our school for 2 days, which gave them a 'snapshot' of what life in our school is like. Whilst there is much to celebrate, we are disappointed with the overall grade as this is not what we or the Local Authority believe we are - we and they had graded us as good (2). We have submitted a formal complaint to Ofsted and shall let you know the outcome in due course.

Since our last inspection 2 years ago, the school has made huge improvements and these are recognised in the report itself. As a school we are always looking to improve and the inspectors agreed that we know our school really well; what we are good at and what we still need to improve. This too is reflected in the report, which is overwhelmingly positive.

Particular areas of strength highlighted were:

- Early years provision is outstanding. The children make outstanding progress, particularly in developing their language and literacy skills;
- Leadership and management are good because the determined and clear sighted drive of the Headteacher and the Leadership Team has led to rapid improvements;
- Behaviour has improved significantly (it was graded as good at the last inspection);
- Pupils feel safe in school and have confidence in the adults around them;
- The pace of learning has improved since the last inspection;
- There have been considerable improvements in the marking of pupils' work;

- Teaching has become increasingly effective in promoting pupils' progress in reading, writing and mathematics;
- Pupils learn well when the work is challenging;
- There is a trend of improvement in attainment;
- There has been a significant input to improve writing so that pupils' progress is accelerating. Pupils' written work suggests that the rate of progress is improving;
- The needs of SEN pupils are accurately identified and these pupils make good progress;
- The school has prepared well for the new National Curriculum;
- There is effective teaching of phonics;
- Teaching assistants support learning effectively;
- The school works hard to establish good links with parents;
- Governance is good and governors actively challenge school leaders.

Areas for development highlighted were:

- Not all pupils handwriting was of a high enough standard;
- Not enough pupils achieve *above* national standards at the end of Key Stage 1;
- Some marking was not of high enough quality;
- In some places teaching needs to improve, however, the pressure on staff during the inspection was immense so not all teachers performed as well as they normally do. The inspectors did observe good and outstanding lessons.

We are really pleased that Ofsted have recognised that we have improved since the last inspection - which indicates that we are now a good school, despite their overall grading. The areas identified as still needing improvement (p.3 of the report) are part of our school improvement plan so this inspection has confirmed what we already know about our school.

As a result of this report, we shall be adapting our school improvement plan very slightly to reflect the development points and we will then share this with Ofsted in a few weeks time. Updates on how we are progressing will be on the Headteacher's Newsletter.

If you have any questions regarding the content of this letter or the report, please do not hesitate to ask.

Yours sincerely



Mrs A Crittenden
Headteacher



Mr T Barker
Chair of Governors