



Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2019

Dear parents and carers,

You may remember that we had an Ofsted inspection towards the end of last term and the report has now been published. You will find a full copy of the Ofsted report on our website. We would welcome any questions that you may have or reflections on what you read.

The inspection was robust and very thorough. The two inspectors were both highly experienced and knowledgeable about nursery and primary education, and their questioning and checks were based on an understanding of outstanding practice. Time was spent scrutinising written records, interviewing members of staff and governors, visiting the nursery and classes and questioning me as the acting headteacher.

It was unfortunate that on the two days the two inspectors visited included our transition morning when the children moved to their new classes and Year 6 were at their secondary school, and the Phase One whole-day visit to Lyme Regis. I am very proud of the quality of the teaching that is the norm in the school but the inspectors didn't see it due to the events in school. In my decision-making, children come first and so, for me, there was no question about cancelling the transition day or the much-loved visit to the seaside when the Ofsted call came!

I am pleased that the inspectors were impressed by the actions we have taken in this last year. For example, the report notes that we have been '*taking rapid action to bring about considered improvement in the school...*' '*working systematically to bring about the much-needed changes..*' The inspectors were impressed that we were '*not cutting corners*' but making sure that improvements were properly embedded. The inspectors also agreed with our priorities and plans for the coming year.

The past year has been a tricky one for leadership and governors as we have been dealing with significant issues to do with safeguarding and staffing in the school. This has meant that we have had to prioritise school actions. Firstly, we had to make sure that the safeguarding systems and follow-up were robust, essential safety improvements were made, and the children knew and were confident in our behaviour code.

We also needed to ensure the focus was consistently on high quality teaching to improve children's achievements over time. This included staff training, creating a curriculum framework, and having agreed approaches and expectations in all subjects. We added regular meetings for class teams with Mrs Ward to look at provision for SEN and planning how to meet individuals' needs.

This was particularly challenging as we had a high number of children joining the school at different stages. As staff and governors together, we managed to achieve these aims alongside nurturing 'a love of learning' that we all aim to instill in every child.

In the nursery, the team has continued to focus on ensuring that each child has a happy and nurturing experience alongside activities to promote learning. New tracking systems have been put in place as well as increased information sharing with parents and carers. The inspectors were very impressed by the quality of care and activities in the nursery.

Overall, the inspectors recognised that the whole school team has achieved many improvements since May last year and agreed with the actions that we have taken. Much of the work that we have done is still being consolidated and any inspection needs to see evidence of 'good' practice over several years before a 'good' rating can be given. Some of our perceived weaknesses were due to not having sufficient written records over a period of time to show the impact of our actions. We will remedy that this year.

I do feel that this report is a fair reflection on the current position of the school. From the serious weaknesses that were present in April 2018, the whole staff team and governors have worked incredibly hard to put so many good things into place without disrupting the essential positive ethos that is key to a happy school. I am confident that we will get everything up to the 'good' requirements by the end of this coming year. The information in this report will obviously inform our action plan for the coming year. I would welcome any thoughts that you might have and we will share the action plan once it has been fully discussed with staff and governors.

#### **Feedback from Parent View responses:**

The Ofsted inspectors sent details about the questionnaire on 'Parent View' to all parents and carers of 2 year olds up to Year 6 children. Sixty-six of you responded. A few of the questions were not particularly relevant to nursery children. Here are some of the summary results:

- 97% said that their child is happy at this school/nursery
- 94% said that their child feels safe at this school/nursery
- 95% said that their child makes good progress at this school/nursery
- 94% said that their child is well looked after at this school/nursery
- 94% said that their child is taught well at this school/nursery

The detail from this and the questionnaires sent out in the spring term have informed our action plans for the year ahead. Feedback from parents and carers is really useful to us so please do let us know if there is anything that we could do better or that is causing you concern.

#### **Summer 2019 results:**

As mentioned in the report, the inspectors recognised the improved outcomes for the children through their scrutiny of books. The test assessments were not available to us at that point.

For example, the report states:

- ~ 'There are incremental improvements to pupils' achievements across the school'
- ~ 'Pupils' workbooks confirm that pupils' achievements are increasing noticeably this year'

We are pleased that our end of year results bore out what the inspectors observed. Our results for KS1 (Year 2) and KS2 (Year 6) both showed an improvement on those from the year before and were all above the national average. 83% of our KS1 children and 72% of our KS2 children were at the expected level in reading, writing and maths combined (compared to 65% nationally).

This year, we also had a big increase in the number of children reaching 'greater depth' (which means that they are significantly above the expected level). Obviously, due to the smallish numbers in each cohort, the percentages fluctuate year on year, but we are pleased to see the upward trend this year.

<b>Key Stage One</b>	<b>2018 school results</b>	<b>National 2018</b>	<b>2019 school results</b>
Reading expected level	71%	75%	83%
Reading greater depth	8%		22%
Writing expected level	63%	70%	86%
Writing greater depth	4%		22%
Maths expected level	79%	76%	87.5%
Maths greater depth	8%		29%
Combined reading, writing and maths at expected level	54%	65%	83%

<b>Key Stage Two</b>	<b>2018 school results</b>	<b>National 2018</b>	<b>2019 school results</b>
Reading expected level	71%	73%	78%
Reading greater depth	29%	28%	28%
Writing expected level	79%	78%	83%
Writing greater depth	14%	20%	22%
Spelling, punctuation & grammar expected level	50%	78%	83%
Spelling punctuation & grammar greater depth	14%	34%	33%
Maths expected level	64%	79%	90%
Maths greater depth	7%	24%	33%
Combined reading, writing and maths at expected level	64%	65%	72%

If you would like any further information, please do get in touch and we will do our best to answer your queries.

Yours faithfully

Frances Burns

Acting Headteacher

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