



25th February 2020

Dear Parents & Carers,

As you know, our school was inspected by Ofsted in the last few days of January. This was the first inspection since 2011 when the school was, at that time, a First school. The report contains some promising feedback and I am writing to share the main findings with you. A copy is also attached and will be on the website later this week.

The Inspectors have judged our school as 'Requires Improvement', which was in agreement with our own evaluative judgement of the school prior to their visit. They recognised the positive steps for improvement that we have implemented in the last few months and were impressed with the links we have already made with other schools in our journey of 'excellence for all'. The areas we identified on our school improvement plan in September at the parent 'Meet & Greet' and updated you with in our January newsletter are the areas inspectors agreed need improvement : Reading; Curriculum development; Maths.

There were positive comments made throughout the process and mentioned in the final report. You will be pleased and reassured to know that most importantly, **'the arrangements for safeguarding are effective'** and **'pupils feel safe'** . **'They know that bullying is harmful and that it is not tolerated'**. In line with the new inspection framework which was introduced to all schools in September 2019 (last term), we have been revising our curriculum in order to find the best ways to broaden the children's learning experiences. For example, we introduced forest school learning every Tuesday. The inspectors recognised this as a real strength in our school along with our P.E. provision and links with the Purbeck partnership schools. Staff have taken on new subjects and now need to develop more expertise in these subject areas.

The inspectors can see that **'leaders have an accurate understanding of what the school needs to do to improve'**. We have implemented our new curriculum and now need to adjust the granular details so that each year progresses from the year before. Inspectors agreed that the **'High Five reading challenge is working in helping the children to enjoy reading and understand its importance'**. We need to continue supporting those who find reading a challenge and find effective assessment strategies to support their progress in reading. Again, we had identified this as an area which needed improvement and last term had already been in touch with an 'outstanding' English hub school who are currently working with us already to improve the teaching of early reading skills.

Behaviour on the playground is another area mentioned for improvement. We have already pinpointed some strategies to help improve this and have shared these with the children. We will also spend time in class discussing the reasons and importance of care for one another.

Before leaving on the second day, the lead inspector told leaders and governors that it was very evident we were a team with hearts and minds who want the best for the children. He spoke about our great integrity and also said he had every confidence in our ability to improve things quickly. I would like to assure you of this. We now have a timeframe of up to 24 months before our next inspection when all the mentioned areas will have been fully addressed.

I hope that you will be reassured by the strategies in place already and I would like to thank you again in advance for your support in helping make these improvements happen so that our children get the best – which is exactly what they deserve.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Christopher