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OFSTED INSPECTION – July 2008

Dear Parents/ Carers

OFSTED INSPECTION JULY 2008

As you are aware the school received a government inspection by Ofsted on the 3rd and 4th July. The staff and governors are pleased with the result.

The purpose of school inspections is to report on a school's overall effectiveness and the achievements and standards which the children reach.

The two day inspection undertaken by a team of three inspectors rigorously challenged, investigated and questioned the quality of education and pastoral support which we provide we were therefore pleased that the team confirmed our own evaluation of the school; the outcome being an agreement between the inspectors and school about the priorities which the staff and governors have set in order for the school to continue to develop.

STRENGTHS

The team endorsed the high priority which the school has placed on raising standards of achievement and recognised that changes to the curriculum and the setting of targets with children in order to develop skills in numeracy and literacy are making an impact on the standards achieved. They praised the expectation we have for children's behaviour and they were impressed by the way children behaved around the school. They acknowledged that children's attitudes towards their work were positive and that they actively enjoyed being part of the school community.

The Foundation Stage was commended for the good start which it gives the youngest children by providing an exciting curriculum within a safe and welcoming environment.

Inspectors recognised the commitment which we have to ensure that the good teaching is consistently in place throughout the school and praised the work particularly of teachers with responsibility for leading subjects such as literacy and numeracy, stating that this work is having a positive impact.

The significant contribution which Teaching Assistants make was highlighted.

The school was congratulated for the way in which we nurture all children's personal and social development and also for our response to the changing population in the local area, applauding the work which we have undertaken to cater for children who enter the school with little or no spoken or written English.

The governors were recognised as becoming increasingly involved and being supportive of the school.

AREAS TO IMPROVE FURTHER

To raise achievement and standards across the school but especially in writing.

To improve teaching by ensuring there is a consistency of practice in the best use of time and the methods used to challenge all abilities.

To ensure marking and the use of pupils' targets is consistent across the school so that all pupils are supported well and know how to improve.

At the beginning of each school year the staff and governors write a School Development Plan identifying targets to further develop provision for the children. All of the above areas for improvement had already been identified by us prior to the inspection and have now been incorporated into the plan for 2008/09.

Throughout the inspection the children were watched and involved in discussions with various inspectors and they provided very clear evidence of how the school has moved forward and continues to improve; their behaviour and attitude during this time was a credit to us all.

The attached document is a copy of the full inspection report and includes a letter for the children written by the inspectors which has been shared with the children in school today.

Thank you to those parents/carers who returned the questionnaires provided by Ofsted. We look forward to continuing to work with you in September in order to build on the progress we have made within the school for the benefit of our children.

Yours sincerely

Miss R. Smith
Headteacher