

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for taking the time to read our latest OFSTED report which is the published summary of their inspection. OFSTED shared more information than is found in the report with us and we are sharing this information and some context and background with you in this letter.

We hope that this letter will answer the questions you may have but appreciate that you may need further information. We will be sending out a survey separately, via email, to check whether further engagement is required.

Background and Context

We held an open evening earlier this year where we updated you on how far we have developed since our last inspection in February 2019. Since the last OFSTED visit we have rewritten our whole curriculum and had this endorsed by education professionals from Devon County Council. We have had many rigorous school improvement visits which have all been extremely positive.

We have worked hard to improve on the findings from the 2019 inspection and the school and our Governing Board have been monitoring progress, which has been considerable. Because of this, there were very few surprises in this latest report from OFSTED and the areas which require improvement had, in the main, been identified by us previously. Please refer to our Strategic Improvement Plan which is published on our website [here](#) for further information on this.

We were however disappointed that the progress we have made since our last inspection was not recognised in the report. Inspectors did verbally confirm that we had made progress towards 'good,' since our last inspection and all the concerns from the previous inspection have been addressed. This does give us great confidence that our development has been at a pace and successful.

We had hoped that the challenges presented to us as a school by COVID would have been considered during our inspection, however in this we fell foul of poor timing. From September 2022 OFSTED could no longer consider the impact of COVID with respect to our rate of development and consistency. If we had been inspected in July for example, we would have been part of "transitional arrangements" and COVID would have been considered.

We have of course, been classified as Requires Improvement (RI), however RI is a very wide band and we (endorsed by professionals from Devon County Council) believe we have moved to the top of this band. We believe that this RI judgement is saying we are not "Good" in all areas yet, but we are progressing in that direction at pace.

Areas of Strength

We are incredibly proud that in 2 very important areas we were classified as "Good" these are:

- Behaviour & Attitudes and
- Personal Development

The wellbeing of your children has always been a priority for our school and post COVID, we took the conscious decision to focus on children's wellbeing, relationships, and recovery to help with their continued love of learning. This is reflected by these "Good" grades. I want to list below the comments from the OFSTED report which identifies all the ways in which the children demonstrated our culture and values in practice during the visit:

- Pupils model their school rules to be 'respectful, responsible, safe and kind' in everything they do. They are compassionate towards others.
- Pupils say bullying does not happen often and is quickly stopped.
- Pupils get the help that they need which supports them to feel happy and safe.
- Pupils are keen to learn.
- Pupils develop responsibilities through a range of roles. This supports them to become active citizens in their school and local community.
- Pupils who attend the gardening club take pride in improving their school grounds.
- Pupils take pride in their school and work.
- They fully understand the school's 'CHEERS' values.
- As a result, pupils know the importance of physical and mental health.
- They respect and embrace each other's differences.

Areas for Improvement

As previously mentioned, in the main, the report highlighted areas for concern that we were aware of, and we will of course take this as another opportunity to keep improving. The Governing Board will closely scrutinise the content of the OFSTED report and reflect on our Strategic Improvement Plan and see whether this needs to be amended. They will also continue to hold us to account for our performance.

The areas for focus and improvement identified are as follows:

Reading – The report highlighted that the reading curriculum needs to be strengthened. Once pupils have completed the phonics curriculum, leaders should consider what pupils need to know next to improve their reading ability further and by when. Post COVID we took the decision to focus on Early Reading and this was strongly endorsed by the OFSTED report. Reading across Key Stage 2 follows a reading spine and we will continue to purchase books to strengthen this. Our Reading results in July were above National Average.

Full curriculum knowledge and implementation – As mentioned, our curriculum is fully designed and endorsed but the report highlights that we now must move forward and ensure that all staff have the expertise they need to implement every subject of the curriculum consistently.

We have strong processes in place and a strong curriculum but a relatively high volume of new staff in subject leadership roles. These staff have not yet had the opportunity to monitor their subject fully. We are comfortable that the requirement highlighted in the report for all staff to have full knowledge of their subject will be tackled quickly. We have a rigorous professional development program in place which the new staff are fully engaged in.

Assessment – The report highlighted that leaders need to ensure that the use of assessment is effective in identifying what pupils understand and how they can build on what they know. Any gaps in understanding or misconceptions can therefore be addressed quickly. Again, when our new subject leads are fully up to speed, assessment can be delivered consistently across all subjects.

Early Years Foundation Stage (Reception) - The report identifies that a focus on assessment and on the provision of the correct resources for children to engage with is required. We have had visits from Devon County Council monitoring EYFS and this has always been positive. Whilst we have areas to work on regarding independence, we believe we have a strong curriculum with knowledgeable staff and that children make a good strong start at our school. Unfortunately, over the first half term, our EYFS leader has been absent. On her return, through slight adjustments to

provision, we are back on track. We will be seeking a review from Devon County Council next term to endorse our Early years work and ensure we are back in line with our previously 'Good,' judgement. Our parent survey and feedback endorses this.

Finally, thank you for your continued support. One of the most positive parts of the visit was to receive such wonderful feedback from you all via the parent survey. The views you have of the school are incredibly important to all staff, the Leadership Team, and the Governing Board and to receive minimum 92% confidence across each question of the Parent Survey was very much appreciated by us all.

We are proud of the progress that we have made since the last inspection and remain dedicated to building on this to ensure that we achieve the best possible provision for our children.

If you have any further questions, please either catch Miss Forrest or I on the gate or indeed book an appointment to come and talk with us.

Yours sincerely,

Louise Prywata