

SPRINGVALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Ofsted Report

Tuesday 11th July 2023

Dear families,

Please find attached our latest Ofsted report. We are delighted to confirm that we remain a 'good' school and that we continue to improve despite COVID disruption and real-terms budget cuts year-on-year. The report reflects the hard work of pupils, their families, staff and Governors over the last 5 years. We are so pleased with the content of the report and we feel that it reflects the strong ethos and excellent relationships across the entire school community. Some of the comments and quotes are very uplifting to hear and read!

The inspector was very impressed by our children, the quality and consistency of our provision and all of the extra opportunities that the pupils receive. It was a really positive experience for us all and the report matches our self-evaluation, almost exactly! As the inspection was a section 8 inspection, we could not receive a grade of outstanding on this occasion but it was clear from the feedback, and indeed from some comments in the report, that behaviour and safety and personal development are very strong indeed- exemplary in fact! This makes us proud of the offer that we provide at the school and the way in which children play, learn and achieve.

The areas for improvement will help us on that continue journey to outstanding and we would respond to each by stating:

- Curriculum- as mentioned in the report, our curriculum is well sequenced and teachers have strong subject knowledge. We know that the curriculum documents are not yet sufficiently detailed to take every subject from F1 to Y6 in minute detail based on skills, knowledge and vocabulary. This is because we have 13 subjects to map out and some teachers lead more than one subject so we are introducing these documents gradually at staff meetings and during INSET days. This approach allows us to properly train staff in their delivery and assessment of the upgraded lesson planning and ensure that it is effective for children and their learning. To do this all at once would see the standard of teaching decline for a period of time in our opinion. We will continue to develop this over the coming years but the standard of teaching across the wider curriculum is already good, as indicated in the report. This is a key area to take the school to outstanding but it is reassuring to know that our approach has worked so far!
- Phonics- our phonics provision and progress for many years has been very strong and this year we have achieved 97% in the phonics check, our best ever result (national is 79%). We do recognise that ongoing/refresher phonics training is important and must be delivered in an almost constant cycle to all staff as phonics demands a whole team effort. Our internal monitoring has not picked up on any concerns around correct use of sounds for some time and this was something we worked hard at 3 or 4 years ago but we are happy to revisit it with all staff again very soon. We are pleased that the provision in phonics, the matching of books and clear and consistent routines for phonics were recognised as phonics is the jewel in the crown of our curriculum offer and reading is the key to success across the whole curriculum!

We thank our families for your amazing support and the glowing feedback on the Parent and Pupil View- all of which was shared verbally during the inspection and made us very proud! Our job, in a nutshell, is to keep children safe and give them a solid grounding across the curriculum with good teaching leading to good progress. We aim to do this whilst keeping our pupils, families and staff happy and working together in harmony. On the day we received our KS2 results that are, once again, well above national and local averages, the fact that we are publishing an Ofsted report that starts with the sentence 'the school's ethos, **play together, learn together and achieve together** is at the heart of everything this school has to offer' makes us very happy indeed.

We carry out our daily work for our children and their families, not for an Ofsted inspection every few years. The hard work to improve further and raise standards ever more started on 9th June and will continue into the coming weeks, months and years.

Regards

Mr L McClure
Headteacher