



Hamsterley Primary School
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'Opening minds, unlocking potential, celebrating success together'

1 March 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Ofsted Inspection 5th and 6th February 2019

We are pleased to announce that during our recent inspection, Ofsted judged our school to be 'GOOD' in all aspects. The Ofsted judgement criteria have shifted a lot since our last inspection in 2012, and our being judged as Good is something to be celebrated. We would like to start by saying a huge thank you to all the parents and carers who took the time to complete the Ofsted survey. Your ongoing contribution to sharing the culture, ethos and feedback on the school was an important part of this outcome and the inspection confirmed the impact the community, parents, friends and families have on ensuring the children have the best possible start to their education.

The report has many highlights. It recognises the importance of the school in the community, and the role pupils, parents, staff and governors play in making such a success of our school:

- *Pupils are kind, polite and aware of the needs of others. They get on well together and with staff at the school. Pupils spoke with real pleasure about how much they enjoyed school and how well the staff care for and look after them.*
- *Parents are, generally, very pleased with the service they receive from the school. They spoke with warmth about the availability of staff and of leaders and the ways in which they respond promptly to concerns about their children.*
- *This school is well led. Leaders ... know the school and the community it serves very well. They want the very best for every child. They understand the importance of the school's place in the community.*
- *Staff morale is high. All staff that the inspector spoke with talked about the effective support they receive from leaders.*
- *Governors know the school and the community it serves very well. As a result, they are well placed to support and challenge leaders. They are, generally, well supported by the local authority.*





The report also recognises the high quality teaching and learning which we have in our school, and the breadth of curriculum that we offer.

- *The school's curriculum is rich and varied. Pupils explore a wide range of artistic, creative and linguistic experiences.*
- *Leaders ensure that the school's curriculum is varied, interesting and rooted in a set of shared values. This helps ensure that pupils are well prepared for their next steps in learning and for life in modern Britain.*
- *The formal curriculum is underpinned by a wide range of extra-curricular activities that develop pupils' artistic, practical and aesthetic knowledge and skills. These activities often involve engagement with the local community.*
- *The quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good. This is because staff know their pupils very well, their expectations are high and they monitor their progress carefully. They use the information they gather about pupils to inform their planning. As a result, pupils make good and sometimes exceptional progress.*

The report does give us two areas to improve on.

We had already recognised that presentation in books was an issue, and had re-introduced daily handwriting lessons. We are now redoubling our efforts to achieve good presentation in all books, and we hope that when you come to the parents' evening in the summer term you can see this reflected in your children's work.

The second area for improvement recognises that our current apprentice teaching assistants are very able and are a real asset to the school. The inspector said that their skills and abilities could be used even more effectively to support your children's learning, and we have already discussed ways in which the teaching assistants can work to ensure that all children make exceptional progress.

A copy of the full report is being sent home along with this letter. If you have any questions about it, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Hassan.

Thank you,

Damian Hassan, Acting Headteacher
Canon Trevor Pitt, Chair of Governors

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