



Highfields Primary School

Elder Lane
Burntwood
Staffs
WS7 9BT

Tel: 01543 510445

office@highfields.staffs.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mark Wilkes BA (hons), PGCE, PGDPSE, MEd

December 2016

Dear Parents,

Re: OFSTED School Inspection Outcome

I am writing to you to inform you of the outcome of our recent OFSTED inspection (1st and 2nd November).

It gives me great pleasure to tell you OFSTED have now recognised Highfields Primary as a **GOOD** school.

During the two day visit they scrutinised all aspects of the school: Effectiveness of Leadership and Management; Quality of Teaching, Learning and assessment; Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare; Outcomes for Pupils; Early Years Provision. In all five areas they found us to be **GOOD**. Meaning the overall effectiveness of the school is **GOOD**.

This inspection recognised the success of the hard work that has gone into moving the school forward and our ambition to provide our pupils with the best education we can. It also recognised the support of you the parents in helping us to fulfil this ambition.

"Senior leaders and governors demonstrate clear ambition for what they want the pupils in their school to achieve. They have effectively addressed the areas for improvement identified at the previous inspection and have continued to secure good developments."

"Pupils complete homework regularly. Children in the Reception class produce work which demonstrates their learning in a wide range of subjects. There is clear evidence of their parents engaging with the different activities."

Our #Highfieldsyearofreading has certainly had impact and continues to do so.

"The teaching of reading is effective. Pupils understand why there is a drive from leaders and staff to encourage all pupils to read more often for pleasure and understanding."

"The teaching of early reading skills, including phonics (letters and sounds) is good. Teachers and teaching assistants use assessments of how well pupils are securing such skills to help them teach specific reading skills well."



This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

This work alongside our rigorous staff training program has had the desired effect on improving writing.

“Pupils of all abilities made good progress through the last academic year and continue to do so this year.”

It was lovely to hear the inspectors praising the pupils for their behaviour around school and their attitudes to learning. We hold pupil voice in high regard and encourage children to take real responsibility for their own learning and for helping us make our school a continually improving place.

“Disruption in lessons is rare as pupils enjoy their learning and want to get on with their work.”

“Pupils have the opportunity to take on a range of leadership roles. These include library roles and to lead groups of pupils in their physical education lessons. Pupils recognise how these roles enable them to be involved in improving the school.”

“Pupils enjoy their learning because the curriculum encourages them to explore their own interests. For example, at the start of each topic, pupils are asked to pose their own questions about what they would like to learn through the particular theme taught.”

Children feel safe at Highfields and spoke to the inspectors about how we help them to keep safe both in the real world and online. They also spoke very well about how we deal with bullying and our commitment to our anti-bullying program.

“Pupils feel safe and are kept safe in school. Pupils, parents and staff express positive views about how the school ensures that pupils are kept safe.”

It also speaks about how we prepare them for living in Britain.

“The school’s work in promoting pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding is effective. Pupils are well prepared for life in modern Britain as they gain a good understanding about British values, including democracy and tolerance.”

We are very clear on what we need to do next to take the school to the next level and this work was already underway prior to the inspection. This was acknowledged by the inspectors who agreed with our areas for improvement. The two main areas we are working on to take us to an OUTSTANDING school are linked to deepening children’s understanding of maths through developing reasoning skills for all abilities (but with a particular focus on the higher ability pupils) and ensuring that we target any areas where boys’ attainment is not as high as the girls.

These are some of the headlines but I have attached a copy of the full report for you to read. This report will be published on the OFSTED website within the next five days.

On behalf of the Governors, staff and pupils I would like to thank you for your continued support and look forward to continuing to work with you on the next stage of our journey.

Yours sincerely,



Mark Wilkes
Headteacher



This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.