



Go On And Learn!

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12th January 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you are aware late last term Kimberley Primary was inspected by Mrs Emma Nuttall on behalf of Ofsted.

The purpose of these inspections is to measure the standard of education that schools provide for all children. Many parents spoke with inspectors and replied to Ofsted's online questionnaire, Parent View. Responses were overwhelmingly positive about the school and we'd like to thank you for your support. The inspection report notes that feedback from parents confirms that you are overwhelmingly positive about the leadership, teachers and adults in school. It also recognises that improvements have been made over the last year.

We learnt a lot from the inspection visit. We learnt that the aspects of school life that we value most highly were recognised to be good by the inspector. This includes all pupils' personal development and welfare, their learning behaviour and their behaviour towards each other. It supported our view that children behave sensibly, they feel safe and secure and they are friendly, happy and support each other well. In addition we had confirmation that the quality of provision including teaching, learning and assessment for those children in Foundation Stage 1 (nursery) and Foundation Stage 2 (reception) is good.

We also had confirmation that the work we have undertaken to improve the curriculum to ensure that it is rich and varied and that it is used well to develop our pupil's spiritual, moral, social and cultural education is good and that children have a comprehensive understanding of British Values. This is also the case with regards to our phonics and reading.

The inspectors recognised that the school uses the primary physical education and sports funding well to develop the sporting experiences of all pupils across the school. In addition, they also recognised that we provide well for the large amount of disadvantaged children through the allocation of our pupil premium funding and that our provision for children who have Special Educational Needs and/or disabilities is effective and that outcomes for these groups were good because of this.

The report also confirms what we had already identified as our school improvement priorities:

- The development of our middle leadership team
- The raising of expectations for the presentation of children's work throughout school
- The raising of attainment in maths
- Improving attendance

As many of you will be aware, we introduced a new way of teaching maths from September. This involves children thinking more deeply about mathematics in order to ensure that they have a complete understanding about the process they are working on. The inspectors felt that we were not pushing the higher ability children as much as we should be, we would disagree with this view. The evidence we gave the inspectors showed that children were working on the same task but with varying levels of support and our most recent data tracking shows that almost all children have made good progress from their starting points. In addition, our KSI and KS2 results from June 2017 also show that the number of children achieving at a higher level is in line with the national average and slightly above in KS2.

The report also states that our outcomes for pupils requires improvement. Although we will always be striving to improve outcomes for all children in our school, we feel that the inspectors did not take into account the evidence we presented to them. Our KS2 results at the end of 2016 were broadly in line with the national average. Our KSI results were below the national average but the inspectors failed to take into account the high level of special needs and high mobility within that particular cohort. Progress from starting points was good for KSI.

We have provided further information to Ofsted in the cases where we disagreed with their findings and are awaiting their response. We are sorry to say that because of the outcomes for our pupils and the inspector's opinion about teaching and learning, particularly in maths, that the inspector has rated Kimberley Primary overall as 'Requires Improvement.' For a school to be rated as 'Good' all pupils need to be making good progress and have attainment in line with national averages. The school will still be requiring extra support from the Local Authority and subsequently East Midlands Education Trust when we convert to academy status in March.

**It is important to note that Ofsted clearly state that a school 'requiring improvement' is not a school causing concern.**

This is very disappointing for all of us, particularly since our HMI monitoring inspection was so positive in the summer. We know that our staff and children work incredibly hard and the progress of ALL our children is important to us. The governors regularly review the progress and attainment of all groups of pupils and have been holding management to account accordingly. They have expressed to Ofsted that they do not agree with the judgement of the school made by their inspector.

The report will be published on the Ofsted website at the beginning of next week, but before it does, we have made a copy available for parents to view now on our school website. We have highlighted all the positive judgements in green so that you are able to see clearly the progress we have made. In addition, paper copies of the report can be requested from the school office.

As a school we will continue with our school improvement plan which already has as a priority raising the attainment of all pupils, improving the quality of teaching, learning and assessment particularly in maths and improving the quality of leadership and management. The school will continue to actively engage with the support package offered by the Local Authority.

Thank you for all your continued support and co-operation. We believe that Kimberley Primary is a good school and we will continue to work hard to ensure that it meets the criteria that Ofsted use to measure the standard of schools.

Lisa Turner-Rowe (Headteacher) and the Kimberley Primary & Nursery School Governing Body.

