



WOODLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Headteacher: Dr Victoria Carr, BA Hons QTS, MA, NPQH, MA, EdD.

Dear Parents,

17 May 2019

Please find attached a copy of our recent Ofsted report. This will not go live on their website until next week, but I wanted you all to have a copy of it in advance.

The report gives no nasty surprises – only a lot of nice ones. It is all about the things I have been sharing with you since September.

What the report shows is that **rapid** progress has been made since September **across the board**.

It shows that Leadership is now a **strength** of the school.

There is no way that inspectors could comment on progress and attainment (directly linked to Teaching and Learning and Outcomes) without the data that will be created from this year's SATs and phonics results – the report would never have made it through their rigorous Quality Assurance team who need to make sure that the published data, the report and the views of the school all triangulate.

I had told the inspectors that I knew Teaching and Learning had improved **substantially**, and gave them the evidence to support this view but the historic gaps in learning needed to be completely addressed before we could say as a school that Learning was 'Good'.

I told the inspectors that internal indicators were that our published data for this summer would be much better than the last 2 years, but there is no evidence of that until July – and I like to work off hard, cold evidence!

In addition, the RI judgement will enable us to continue to access the financial and practical support of the Local Authority who have no funding stream available for 'Good' schools.

With stability in the leadership now, rapid progress in only 2 terms, systems fully in place to ensure robust practice, and a highly trained workforce we can now continue to work apace and I am sure that in the next 20 months, when we are re-inspected, we will all have a FABULOUS surprise!

I met with staff yesterday after school to discuss it with them. It was interesting how some staff thought it was not positive and others thought it was extremely so. I am with the second group.

To reiterate then, for those of our community who may think it is possibly negative, this report was no surprise. I reminded staff that although what we have been doing is brilliant, and everyone who comes in says so and grills us to ensure that they are right and we are indeed effective, it has only been so for a limited time (2 terms to turn around the fortunes of a school isn't long!).

In a little more time, we will have the evidence to overcome the Ofsted rubric and enjoy the fruits of our labours with a much better outcome.

I reminded staff that they had been instrumental, each one of them, in putting the systems in place, in planning and teaching and supporting children for whom learning had not been the greatest experience in the past, and that they needed to continue to work alongside me to make sure that the future was bright – no matter when we next get a visit. That is the same message I give to you. Thank you for your continued support.

We are in the business of enhancing children's lives, with authenticity, every day – not performing for Ofsted.

If you have any comments on the content of the report, can I ask that you email them me via the office in an email marked 'OFSTED FEEDBACK' to admin@woodlands.cheshire.sch.uk

Kindest regards,

Dr Victoria Carr
Headteacher