

Gooderstone Church of England Primary Academy

'Let every light shine'

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9th January 2017

Dear Parent/Carer,

You'll remember that we had an Ofsted Inspection at the end of November. Christmas delayed the publication of the final report but I am happy to tell you that I have now received it and it accompanies this letter.

The Overall Ofsted grading for our school was **Requires Improvement**, which confirmed our own evaluation. We are pleased with the report as the inspector identified many strengths. The inspection process focuses on five different areas, three of which were judged to be Good. Some key points taken directly from the report are below:

Effectiveness of Leadership and Management - Good

- *Since September 2015, as a result of the new leadership and governance structure, the school has been improving rapidly and pupils' achievement is rising.*
- *Pupils learn in a calm and purposeful environment built on mutual respect.*
- *The leadership of child protection is robust.*

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment – Requires Improvement

- *Reading is taught well. Children develop their reading skills quickly in early years and are very keen to show their skills by reading aloud.*
- *Teachers have secure subject knowledge and explain learning clearly and well across the curriculum.*

Personal development, behaviour and welfare – Good

- *The school's work to promote pupils' personal development and welfare is good.*
- *Pupils are taught effective strategies to deal with differing emotions.*
- *The behaviour of pupils is good. Adults have positive relationships with the pupils and have high expectations of behaviour and conduct.*
- *Pupils are happy and safe. Their behaviour and conduct is good and they are well cared for.*

Outcomes for pupils – Requires Improvement

- *For some pupils, they are now making accelerated progress over time in mathematics and are catching up on lost ground.*

- *Leaders use the additional government funding increasingly well so that any barriers to learning are overcome. Disadvantaged pupils on the roll are making strong progress in their learning from their starting points when compared with other pupils nationally.*
- *Pupils enjoy a wide range of activities and learning in other subjects. The work on display around the school was of a good quality.*

Early years provision – Good

- *This year, whatever their starting points, children are making good progress in all areas of learning.*
- *In the afternoons, the Reception children join with Year 1 to experience other subjects in the curriculum and learning with older pupils. These young children contribute their views and opinions easily in lessons.*
- *Children are very enthusiastic about their learning and are extremely proud to 'be a wren'. Their behaviour and attitudes to their learning are exemplary.*
- *The children are taught effectively about taking risks.*
- *Children experience all areas of the early years curriculum in a warm and stimulating environment.*

We expect our next inspection in two years' time and are determined that the judgement will be at least Good. In order to achieve this we must make the following a focus for further improvement:

- *Teaching meets the needs of all children, giving the appropriate level of challenge that will lead to good progress in all subjects*
- *Improve spelling accuracy and handwriting*
- *Increase opportunities to develop reading and maths skills*
- *Refine our assessment system to track progress of pupils working well below the expected standard*

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the parents who spoke to the inspector and their many positive comments. Throughout the inspection, I was very proud of the children who were, as usual, well behaved and working hard. In recent years, the school has gone through a difficult period but now with permanent staff and a new leadership structure in place the Ofsted Inspector recognised that we are making rapid improvements and I feel confident that this will continue.

Yours sincerely,

Christina Galletly

Christina Galletly
Executive Headteacher