



15th December 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

Ofsted Inspection 22nd November 2017

I am delighted to provide you with a copy of our Ofsted letter. A one day inspection cannot possibly look at everything we do in school and the letter sent is also limited in length, but we feel that the inspector, Mr Reeves, recognised many of our school's strengths. In his verbal feedback he said that it was very easy to judge our school as 'Good' and that it 'was a shame' that he couldn't quite judge us as 'Outstanding', as he felt we are so very close and will probably get there before the end of this academic year.

There are so many sections of the letter I could quote, but the ones which particularly stand out for me are: "friendly, caring and nurturing environment where pupils thrive both personally and academically"; "relationships ...are superb across school"; "Parents are overwhelmingly positive about your school"; "...Family Groups', which engender in pupils qualities of care, thoughtfulness, respect and responsibility..."; "The behaviour of your pupils is exemplary in lessons and around school" and "Your pupils enjoy school and they see it as a welcoming, friendly place, where everyone helps one another."

Mr Reeves also commented positively about the very high academic outcomes achieved by our children, which are often significantly better than national average (which is also confirmed by our inclusion in the Sunday Times top 250 Primary Schools list).

We are delighted that Mr Reeves recognised the significant improvements we have made since our last inspection in 2013 and confirmed that the areas we have already identified in our School Improvement Plan are the ones which will help us to become 'Outstanding' overall. The Inspector was very interested in how we achieve our outstanding outcomes in reading and endorsed our plans to continue to work on writing, so that our children's attainment in that area matches that of reading (even though our writing attainment and progress is already higher than national average).

The school's decision to start nursery provision was highly praised by Mr Reeves and he was amazed at what we have managed to achieve in a matter of weeks. We are very proud of what we have accomplished too. He felt the environment is vibrant and stimulating and that the staff are nurturing, highly skilled and dedicated. There are some very minor improvements yet to be made,

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Sedgefield Primary School

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but we had already identified the actions required in our School Improvement Plan. The support of parents with children in Nursery came through very strongly on Parent View, the online questionnaire. Those parents spoke very positively about their children's love of Nursery, the way they feel part of the school because the older children care for them so well and the amount of progress they have made in a short space of time.

May I thank everyone for their kind words and support during the inspection and especially to everyone who either took the time to email or complete Parent View (74 responses for a school of our size is considered very good). I also need to thank the children, who were unsurprisingly fantastic during the inspection, as they are every single day. Mr Reeves agreed with me – they are the best thing about our school! In addition my thanks goes to our talented and dedicated staff, who work tirelessly to ensure the children receive the very best education, support and care possible and to our professional and committed Governors, who give up their time so readily. Lastly, my thanks go to you. We are very grateful to be so well supported by parents/carers and we feel that we are all working together to benefit the children. With your ongoing support I am confident that our school will continue to flourish and develop to meet the changing needs of the children of Sedgefield, at the same time as prioritising our 'family feel' and nurturing ethos, which is so important to us.

Yours sincerely,

Headteacher

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