



THE WINDMILLS JUNIOR SCHOOL

Dale Avenue, Hassocks, West Sussex. BN6 8LS

Tel: 01273 842421

office@windmills.w-sussex.sch.uk www.windmills.w-sussex.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Leila Murray

OfSTED Inspection – February 2018

Dear Parents & Carers,

I wanted to share with you our Ofsted report, following their recent inspection visit, as soon as it came out. Please find this attached.

We are obviously disappointed that the judgment is 'requires improvement' rather than 'good'. We were pleased that the key lines of enquiry were aspects that the school had identified and were already working on. This shows that we know our school well and are working hard to ensure that the provision and standards for **all** are improving but we are not there yet:

"many of the intended improvements can be seen in the schools work now".

There were many strengths highlighted including how well the children behave and that they were "unfailingly polite" during the time that the inspectors were with us. It was recognised that the school's work to promote pupils' personal development and welfare is good. However, a minority of children's attitudes towards learning are not good enough yet for an overall judgement of good to have been made in this section.

For the last two years, Special Educational Needs has been a key priority for us involving a total review of our provision. Some of the work that we are now undertaking is in its infancy and therefore is yet to have full measurable impact as indicated by the word 'continuing' in the Ofsted report. There is still a significant amount of work to do and you can be assured that this group of children are at the forefront of our minds and will remain a key priority.

We have been focusing on improving our writing and had introduced a spelling scheme to support this element. Last summer, our writing attainment increased by 10%. We have some excellent writing outcomes across the curriculum as shown in the children's topic books and we are committed to finding new ways and 'hooks' for learning to make writing as engaging as it can be. We have increased children's engagement in writing by reviewing the curriculum and introducing new topics or writing stimulus. There is still work to be done to eradicate inconsistency in standards and presentation across the school and, as parents know, we have implemented a new presentation policy to ensure that the teachers insist on high standards and the children have maximum pride in their learning.

The report identifies that teaching is well organised and subject knowledge is sound. There is work to be done to improve the consistency, pitch and high enough expectations for all learners. It was acknowledged that leaders have a 'realistic and accurate view of the school' and are taking appropriate action to ensure that teachers are supported to teach well pitched lessons that are appropriate to learners' needs and the demands of the new curriculum.

Please be reassured that we will continue to work tirelessly to ensure that **all** children make good progress and that we will not compromise the 'broad and balanced curriculum supported by a wide range of extra-curricular activities' that your children receive at The Windmills Junior School.



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There will be an opportunity for you to meet with senior staff and governors to discuss the report on **Tuesday 13th March at 6.00 pm - 7.00pm** in the school hall. Here we will share with you the work that the school is continuing to do to ensure all children make good progress and answer any questions that you may have. Obviously this is not an appropriate place to talk about an individual child's needs or issues. Any concerns of this nature should be discussed at an appointment with your child's teacher, the inclusion manager, myself, or my Deputy Headteacher.

I would like to thank you for your on-going support in helping us provide such a rich curriculum and in ensuring that The Windmills is a school where children are positive and engaged in the learning that we provide. The staff are fully committed to working together to strengthen the current practice at the school to ensure that we raise our expectations and do the very best that we can for the children.

I look forward to continuing to work with you to strengthen the home school partnership and the children's learning opportunities.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Murray".

Mrs Leila Murray – Headteacher

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "S Boyd".

Mrs Sandra Boyd

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan M. Hatton".

Mrs Sue Hatton - Co - Chair of Governors