



Friday 5th October 2018

Dear Parents,

As you know we were visited by Ofsted on Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th September. As a school community we should all be extremely proud of the way the children conducted themselves during the two days. Thank you also to those of you who completed the Parent View questionnaire, sent in emails or took time to speak to the inspectors.

Our last Ofsted inspection was in January 2008. Since then there have been a number of changes within education - a new inspection framework, a new primary curriculum and new national assessment arrangements, all of which are more rigorous and challenging and have significantly higher expectations placed upon schools and children.

This inspection was carried out under the OFSTED Framework for Inspections. Schools are given a grade for Overall effectiveness as well as grades for five individual areas - Effectiveness of leadership and management; Quality of teaching, learning and assessment; Personal development, behaviour and welfare; Outcomes for pupils and also Early Years provision. The grades that can be awarded are Outstanding, Good, Requires Improvement and Inadequate.

From this inspection, the judgement for Early Years provision at Hotwells is Good. The judgement for Personal development, behaviour and welfare at Hotwells is Good. Effectiveness of leadership and management; Quality of teaching, learning and assessment and Outcomes for pupils have been graded as Requiring Improvement. Therefore Ofsted currently grades Overall effectiveness as 'Requires Improvement'. The full report will be published by Ofsted next week and is available on our school website under the title 'Ofsted' in the 'About Us' section from the end of the day on Friday 5th October. You may contact the school office if you require a copy.

Even though this report and judgement is disappointing for the school community, it acknowledges that work has begun, and will now continue with vigour, to make the necessary changes to address progress and drive school improvement, focusing upon the impact of every action taken.

We are now embarking upon a strategic School Improvement Plan to address the issues raised by Ofsted. The plan will be supported by school improvement partners who will visit school regularly and by Governors who will scrutinise progress termly. We will also follow a recommendation for a review of governance and a review of pupil premium spending. We will keep parents informed regularly of our actions and their impacts.

It is important to say that Ofsted have recognised clear strengths within the school including:

- *'The Early Years Foundation Stage is good - children make a strong start to their schooling'*
- *'Behaviour and conduct is good'*
- *'Reading is a strong feature of the school'*
- *'Pupils develop skills in a wide range of subjects and are encouraged to develop their artistic and sporting talent'*



Clearly we are now starting on a new journey and there are changes to make in order to move the school from 'requires improvement' to 'good' and ultimately 'outstanding'; I am certain that the school community will share in this vision with determination.

What I also know is that you, as parents, and we, as educators, value many unique features of our school that we will preserve in order to deliver a balanced and enriching educational experience for our children that we all - pupils, parents, staff and governors – believe in.

I am very proud to be Headteacher of Hotwells Primary School. The school is valued in the local community and truly has the most dedicated team of teachers, support staff, administration staff and volunteers, who put the needs of the children at the centre of all that they do. So let's embrace this challenge and lead Hotwells forward in the best interests of all our children, into the next phase of its development.

Yours sincerely,

Catherine Delor

Headteacher

Comments from the full report:

'Pupils are delighted to receive acknowledgement of what they have done well and teachers take the time to write messages to pupils to celebrate this. Pupils genuinely support their classmates and readily take on leadership responsibilities. Older pupils enjoy opportunities to work with younger pupils.'

'The curriculum provides meaningful activities for pupils to develop their spiritual, moral and cultural understanding. Pupils explore different cultures and religions and celebrate diversity. Staff reinforce pupils' own sense of worth and belonging.'

'Pupils conduct themselves well around the site which is calm and purposeful. They demonstrate polite and courteous manners and co-operate well with each other during social time. Pupils are self-assured, confident and understand expectations. They say that bullying is rare but that staff deal with it quickly when it does occur.'

'Leaders model and promote the values that underpin the work of the school. They are warm, approachable and clearly know their pupils well.'