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Head Teacher: Mr M Hickey BA(Ed), PE QTS

April 19, 2018

Re: Highwood OFSTED Report

Dear Parents / Carers,

As you may be aware, three inspectors visited Highwood for two days on March 14th and 15th. Please find attached a full copy of the report. Whilst we fully accept the areas for development, we are confident that we can move the school forward as the main themes are already identified in our current school improvement plan. The senior leadership team, staff and governors have already begun working on refining these plans and we look forward to sharing these with you as the planned improvements progress.

The **strengths** identified in the report included:

- Leaders and managers have had a **positive impact** on the **good quality of education in the early years, key stage 1** and the **resourced provision**.
- Leaders provide a **vibrant curriculum** that develops **effective learning behaviours**.
- Children make **good progress** in the **early years**. A **greater proportion than the national average** reach a good level of development.
- **Pupils say that the school is 'great'**. They like the fact that their teachers always help them whenever they are stuck.
- There are **strong relationships** with parents and carers. Nearly all who answered the Ofsted survey, Parent View, would **recommend the school** to another parent.

Development points:

Strengthen progress in key stage 2 maths and writing, ensuring expectations are consistently high.

- Continue to develop our mastery approach to Mathematics;
- Review the good progress we have secured and sustained at EYFS and KS1 to consider implications for KS2;
- Build on the approach to Writing that helped last year's cohort reach above the National Average ensuring the writing cycle is consistent in each year group;
- Our most senior leaders will focus on monitoring and development of progress in the KS2 team.

Review the effectiveness of the assessment system in KS2 with a particular focus on specific groups.

- We will continue to use our accurate day to day formative assessment to provide you with detailed information about your child's learning;
- Additional training has already begun to enable teachers to make effective use of assessment to inform planning for individual and group needs.

Increase the details of the specific actions in the school improvement plan.

- In order to ensure that the details of areas of development are precise, we have created a separate document called a Raising Achievement Plan (RAP), which will identify the specific actions we are taking and the outcomes we expect to achieve. This will help us make sure that the progress of children is consistently good.

Strengthen attitudes to learning in year 3.

- Increase classroom support to enable improvements in attitudes to learning;
- Senior leaders to provide regular support and training.

Continue to develop middle leaders (new to role in Jan 2018) improving clarity on roles and responsibilities and understanding of impact.

- We will review our responsibility structure and clarify responsibilities so that the team is clear about the expectations of their roles;
- Senior staff will offer support and guidance to help develop their level of impact.

Review the link between monitoring and pupil's progress.

- Pupil Progress tracking system to be reviewed so that it is easier for a class teacher to identify a child whose progress is a concern;
- The leadership team will use the monitoring information more effectively to hold teachers to account.

Increase the level of detail provided to governors regarding the achievement of specific groups.

- We have already modified the template used for reporting to governors so that the specific group information mentioned can be included alongside the assessment and tracking data the governing body already receive;
- We will continue to provide governors with details about the strengths and weaknesses of each cohort of children.

During this inspection, the school was graded **Good** for **Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare** and **Early Years Provision**. Feedback from parents was very positive in fact, OFSTED noted:

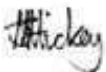
*'There are strong relationships with parents and carers.
Nearly all who answered the Ofsted survey, Parent View, would recommend the school to another parent.'*

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the many parents who were supportive of our school and reassure you that as a senior leadership team, together with all staff and governors, we will build upon the strengths identified within the school by driving the improvements in our plan forward. We want to achieve this whilst retaining the ethos and culture that inspired you to choose Highwood for your children. We would therefore very much like to work with you as parents for the benefit of the whole Highwood community.

In this letter, we have tried to outline some of the work we have already done and we will keep you informed and involved as we move forward. OFSTED will return within 30 months for another two-day inspection and we are confident that the improvements needed will be achieved by that time.

If you have any questions or concerns, then please feel free to make an appointment to see Mr. Hickey via the main office.

Yours sincerely,



Matt Hickey
Headteacher
Highwood Primary School



Keith Wilson
Chair of Governors
Highwood Primary school