



Thrapston Primary School

Ofsted Inspection

Dear Parent/Carer,

You will be aware that, at the end of January, Ofsted carried out an inspection of our school. The report will be available on the Ofsted website shortly and we have made a copy available for you to view now via our school website. In addition, paper copies can also be requested from the school office.

[Link to Ofsted inspection report on TPS website](#)

Under the latest Ofsted framework, Thrapston Primary School has been judged as 'Requires Improvement' overall, with judgements of 'Good' for both the Early Years provision (our Nursery and Reception year-groups) and for Personal development, behaviour and welfare.

The Ofsted report describes Thrapston Primary as "*an improving school*" and it is clear from both pupil outcomes and parental feedback that much progress has been made since the previous Ofsted inspection in 2016. Nevertheless, governors and staff accept the judgements made by Ofsted and recognise that there are areas of school life where we must do better.

The report itself contains many positive comments about the school and I encourage you to take the time to read it in full. For example:

- *Pupils' work shows that pupils are making increasingly strong progress. In writing, for example, pupils are taught how to write increasingly complex sentences over time.*
- *The behaviour of pupils is good. Staff manage behaviour consistently well and pupils know what is expected of their behaviour. Pupils conduct themselves well at all times of the school day*
- *The teaching of phonics is effective. Staff have a consistent approach to teaching the school's phonics programme. Teaching is lively and matched well to pupils' needs.*
- *Early Years provision – Expectations of what children can achieve are high, including in mathematics and writing. Inspectors saw how children were able to write simple, punctuated sentences or draw pictures to demonstrate their understanding of mathematical concepts.*

The report clearly highlights where we need to improve further. For example, we must ensure that:

- *Leaders at all levels sharply check the impact of their work and use their findings to more effectively hold staff to account and ensure that agreed approaches to school improvement are followed.*
- *All teachers develop further their expertise in teaching pupils the knowledge and skills they need to be effective problem-solvers and the ability to reason in mathematics.*
- *The school has focused plans for the use of the pupil premium and additional funding for PE and sport.*

The Board of Governors, the school's Senior Leadership Team and all members of staff are now working to implement the recommendations of the inspection report. In many cases, Ofsted commented on areas for improvement that we'd identified beforehand and so actions were already under way. Ofsted recognised this situation but felt that "*some of these initiatives are at an early stage*". With this in mind, we are confident that progress in these areas will be rapid.

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I want to take the opportunity to thank the children for being so welcoming towards the inspection team. They spoke openly and eloquently and it's pleasing to hear that they both enjoy and take pride in their school.

I also want to thank the staff, not just for their professionalism during the inspection but also for the hard work they put in every day to provide the best possible education and support to every child.

Finally, I want to thank the parents and carers who either spoke with inspectors or provided feedback via the online Parent View survey. As Chair of Governors, I often hear only from families when there's an issue and they need to raise a concern. The inspection report contains many positive statements about parents' views of the school, talking about friendly approachable staff and the confidence you have that your children are happy, kept safe and enjoy coming into school.

The Board of Governors will continue supporting and challenging the school to deliver the best possible outcomes for all children. We currently have a small number of vacancies on our Board and are keen to appoint committed individuals who want to play a role in helping our school improve. If you are interested in finding out more about the role of a governor, please contact me via the email address below. Prior experience of school governance is not required because full training is available. We are happy to consider everyone who is willing to work positively with the school and we are especially interested in hearing from people who have recent business or financial experience.

If you have any questions or comments about either the report or this letter, please contact me via the email address below.

aboone@thrapston.net

Regards

Adam Boon
Chair of Governors