



15th January 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Please find attached the Ofsted report from our recent inspection. Ofsted judge 5 areas of the school and we were classified as good in three of these: Personal Development, Early Years and Behaviour and Attitudes.

The Ofsted framework has changed recently (September 2019) and now looks very closely at every subject in the wider curriculum. This is something we have been urgently addressing but it is not yet fully established in some subjects. Ofsted acknowledged that we were on a journey, with the new wider curriculum focus only coming into play in September but could not award us 'Good' in this area as the implementation has only just begun and we therefore could not yet show the impact of our initiatives so early in the year. Linked to this is the role of subject leads and senior leaders who need to develop a more strategic overview. As the curriculum falls into the category called quality of education and overrides all other areas for the final grading we retained our RI judgement. Whilst this is disappointing, please note that the official Ofsted definition of requires improvement is 'an acceptable standard of education'.

When you read the report, I suggest you look at it once and then re-read it. The many excellent aspects inspectors picked out show you clearly that our school is in a rapidly improving situation and on a journey to good and beyond. Whilst this has taken longer than anticipated, the report talks glowingly of reading, RE, phonics, writing, behaviour, support for children, personal development, foundation stage, safeguarding, staff morale and the ethos of the whole school. I am certain that within just a few months I will confidently be able to report that upon re-inspection we would be classified as good in all areas.

We have already started to revise our curriculum with a lot more emphasis on knowledge and we will be sending home information shortly on how you can help to support with this.

I know that you love St Mary's as much as I do and will remain supportive as we continue to build our school. Children are happy here, of that the Inspectors had no doubt! Our results are improving and we care and nurture each individual child as an integral part of our lovely, whole school Christian community. Both myself, the staff and the Governing Body want the very best for your children and we are determined to achieve this.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to ask.

Kind Regards

Mrs Rachel Ayres
Headteacher