



Billingshurst Primary School
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Dear Parents and Carers

Following our Ofsted inspection on 25th and 26th June, the report has now been published and is attached to this letter for all parents and carers.

When you read the Ofsted report it will come as no surprise when the leadership and governance of the school express their extreme disappointment with the outcome of this inspection. Whilst we recognise the strengths that have been identified, we are bitterly disappointed that the inspectors have judged the school to be 'requiring improvement' in teaching and learning, leadership and management and outcomes.

We are a fully inclusive school that focuses on the quality of what takes place in the classroom as the first step in supporting all children to learn and make good progress. We track the progress of all children and intervene to ensure they make good progress from starting points, whatever their need. The inspection framework focuses its attention on the 'current pupils', not those who have left the school, but the data that this inspection relies on is for those children who are now in secondary school. Whilst patterns and trends are no doubt important, and we use them all the time, the data we have in school is far stronger. Data which is externally validated in the form of standardised scores and by external moderators, that show good progress of current pupils, was disputed by the inspectors and they continued to focus on the data of last year. Where outcomes are strong, in EYFS and phonics, then the report is stronger. Where outcome were weaker, the report refers to inconsistencies and not enough progress.

The evidence we have that this school is thriving is validated by the test results for the KS2 outcomes for 2019 which we have received yesterday. The results are:

Subject	Expected Standard	National 2019	Greater Depth	National 2019
Reading	86%	73%	36%	Not published yet
Writing	80%	78%	8%	Not published yet
Maths	87%	79%	25%	Not published yet
Spelling and Grammar	87%	78%	28%	Not published yet
RWM combined	74%	65%	7%	Not published yet

These results are very pleasing in that we exceed the national averages in all but Greater Depth writing. We will continue to develop our higher attaining writers. We believe these results further support that children have achieved well this year and the school is showing significant evidence of the impact of its work and our improvement.



The report recognises the fantastic strengths of this school in pupils' well-being, development and behaviour. Our children are rightly proud of their school, their roles in the school and how well they are cared for – a sentiment reflected by parents in the survey. We are proud of our children, their thoughtfulness and care for each other. Safeguarding is effective and rigorous – as it should be – and we are proud that this aspect of the school has been recognised.

However strong our disappointment with the inspection we want to move forward rapidly. We have a clear vision for the school and the areas identified by Ofsted were already broadly in our improvement plan. In order to strengthen teaching for 2019-20, we have made some absolutely fantastic appointments. We took adverts out early and made appointments as early as we could in the academic year. We have been rigorous in the selection process to ensure only the best teachers are standing up in front of your children in 2019-20. We also, for the first time in four years, have a complete leadership team. In a large school this matters.

The Headteacher, senior leaders and the governors are absolutely determined that the school will thrive, in terms of results and Ofsted, but most importantly for our children. We will continue to celebrate the unique child and to teach them a relevant, broad, exciting and engaging curriculum. Our vision is that our children will make excellent progress through loving learning at school and being interested in what they are taught. The results will come because of this.

We know you will be disappointed with the outcome and for that we are sorry. We are also sorry for all the staff here to feel judged by the inspectors in a manner that does not reflect the school we all know and love. The school team ALL fought incredibly hard to show what a fabulous school we are and that we know what our strengths are but also our areas for future focus. We are still as determined and we will succeed for all the children in our care.

The support we received from parents over the two days of the inspection was inspiring and we thank you all for your kind words, cards, feedback to inspectors and even cake. We know you know we care about your children and we love knowing that you care about the staff here, recognising what they do for your children. We always appreciate your feedback and would encourage you to log on to Parent View (www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk) to leave your feedback as we do check this regularly. We look forward to taking on the challenge in September and making this school truly great.

Yours sincerely

Helen Williamson
Headteacher

Bik-Kay Talbot
Chair of Governors

