

Newton Tony C of E VC Primary School

 Newton Tony

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### 25th April 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,



I am delighted to share the outcome of our recent Ofsted Inspection carried out on the 27th March 2019. Newton Tony CE VC Primary School has been judged to be ‘Good’. The Inspector has identified many strengths of the school, along with specific areas to develop. The complete report will be live on our website from 29th April 2019. Should you require a paper copy, please ask Mrs Talbot-King at the school office. Ofsted judgements are based on the following key areas, effectiveness of leadership and management; quality of teaching, learning and assessment; personal development, behaviour and welfare; outcomes for pupils, early years provision and then the school’s overall effectiveness.

I am thrilled that the report acknowledges the wonderful ethos of the school, highlighting the dedication of all our staff. The inspector spent time meeting with myself, our middle leaders (who have responsibility for specific subject areas), Governors, parents and our children. The inspector also spent time speaking to a representative from the Local Authority.

The report states that ***- Teaching is now consistently effective across the school and current pupils are making good progress. Staff share the Head Teacher’s determination to provide the best for every child and are unanimous in feeling well supported and proud to work at the school.***

We have a wonderful school community, which was evident from discussions the inspector had with all stakeholders. Our children are truly amazing and are very proud of being part of our school family.

The report states that ***-Pupils enjoy positive relationships with adults and trust that these adults will listen to their concerns and keep them safe. The school’s work to promote pupils’ personal development and their understanding of fundamental British values is highly effective. The curriculum includes learning about a wide range of faiths and cultures. Consequently, pupils learn to challenge discrimination and are well prepared for life in modern Britain. Pupils told me that the school helps them to lead healthy lifestyles and to demonstrate leadership through the many additional responsibilities on offer. These include being ‘playground leaders’ and ‘safety warriors’ who help keep others safe. They are proud of their school and speak of how the Christian values help them to, ‘be kind and patient and never give up’.***

Thank you for your positive responses on ‘Parent View’ and for comments shared with the inspector in person. All contributions were valued and demonstrated the open communication between home and school.

The report states that ***-Parents commend the school wholeheartedly. They speak highly of the improvements you have made and appreciate the welcoming and caring ethos of the school. They value the approachability of staff and your work to include them as partners in their children’s education. One comment that, ‘ever since the head teacher took over the school has massively improved,’ was typical of many parents’ views.***

The Inspector was extremely positive about our Safeguarding at the school and our commitment to nurture and care for every child in our school family.

*The report states that* ***- The culture of safeguarding in the school is strong. Records are well maintained and thorough, including pre-employment vetting checks on staff.***

***The Head Teacher knows the needs of families well and works with them to provide help as soon as needs arise. Pupils told the Inspector that they feel safe and supported in school. They say that bullying is extremely rare and that adults deal with any concerns about bullying and poor behaviour quickly.***

I would like to thank the Governing Body for all their support and continued efforts to strive for excellence. It was a reflection on their commitment that all of our governors were involved in the inspection.

The report states that ***- Governors have carefully evaluated their skills and undertaken training to help them to understand and carry out their statutory responsibilities. Although some governors are new to their roles, they are well informed about the quality of education at the school. They use their visits and the information that you provide to hold leaders to account for pupils’***

Our Teaching and Learning was celebrated in the report and I would like to thank all our families for supporting us by ensuring their children attend school regularly to ensure we can work as an effective learning partnership. The inspector examined the children’s Maths and English workbooks across the school and concluded that they make good progress.

The report states that - ***Pupils’ workbooks show that pupils are now making good progress. The feedback that they receive from teachers helps them to address misconceptions and move their learning forward. Pupils apply their knowledge to solving problems and explain and justify their mathematical thinking with increasing precision. A greater proportion of pupils across the school are now working at the higher standard in composition, grammar and punctuation. Pupils also follow effective guidance on how to review and edit to improve the quality of their work. As a result, pupils’ writing is more precise and detailed.***

The Inspector also focused on Early Years (Our Reception Year) and examined the achievement and progress over the last three years.

The report states that ***- Evidence that I saw during the inspection confirmed that children’s achievement is now rising. Staff have high expectations and have prioritised the teaching of early reading, writing and number skills. More children are currently on track to achieve or exceed the standards expected of them and are better prepared for Year One. Children sustain interest in their learning when selecting activities and in play. They behave well and listen attentively to adults and to each other.***

Our OFSTED inspection was a fantastic opportunity to continue to drive the school forward on our journey to outstanding. We have already introduced changes to address the Inspector’s findings. Our Inspector identified the following next steps for the school:

Leaders and those responsible for governance should ensure that:

◼ they consolidate their work to improve pupils’ spelling so that more pupils achieve the higher standard in writing across the school

◼ adults use their assessment of children’s learning in the early years to plan activities which help them to develop their early writing and number skills effectively

◼ improvement plans include precise measures for success to help leaders and governors check the impact of their plans on pupils’ progress, achievement and welfare

We have an amazing school and a wonderful, unique community. Our success and future achievements are built on the hard work and commitment of staff, governors, children and parents, those who are currently at the school and those who have been here in past years. It is said that ‘success is not created by one person, but by many people who come together and work as a team.’ I think that our successes, to date and our future achievements, will be guaranteed by us continuing to work closely together. I would like to thank my staff for their hard work and most importantly for their commitment to always placing a child’s wellbeing and success at the centre of what they do.

Thank you to you as parents for your support and belief in us to achieve the best for your child.

Kind regards,

S Priestley

Miss S Priestley

     