

October 2019



Dear Parents and Carers,

We are very pleased and proud to be able to share with you a copy of our most recent OFSTED inspection. This will be emailed out to all our families later today and will be available on the school website next week. It will be published on the Ofsted website within the next 5 working days. A guide to OFSTED School Inspections is attached with this letter.

***“Pupils work hard, take learning seriously and achieve well.***

***Plaistow and Kirdford Primary School continues to be a Good School.” OFSTED 2019***

As you will recall, we were visited by an inspector in our second week of term (slightly earlier than expected!). We were the first school in West Sussex to be inspected this year and among the first to have been inspected under a new “tougher” inspection Framework. The inspector spent two days at school looking closely at how our school worked, what we did well and what we could still improve on.

It was very different to inspections that we have had in the past. It focused very much on what the children learn, why the children learn the things they do and how well they put to use the things that they have learnt.

This meant that the inspector visited every classroom at least once to watch learning taking place, spoke to all of our teachers and spoke with many of the children in lessons, after lessons and at play and lunch times. He was full of praise for them and whenever I had the opportunity to join him in his conversations with the children I was enormously proud of the learning they shared. He spoke with them about their history work and what they learnt in our foundation subjects, about their maths and how we help them learn and about their reading.

In a climate where many schools that have been judged previously as outstanding or good have slipped back a grade, we are very pleased as being judged to be a “good” school. There are many things that we feel that we do that are better than “good” (in fact we’re not even sure that “good” as a good enough word!) and we are always working hard to do better. Our senior leadership team was very pleased to see that the areas the inspector highlighted for improvement were already areas which we had also identified and could already articulate the steps we were taking to develop them.

For me phrases such as, ***“Pupils flourish in their learning and in their personal development”*** and ***“Pupils grow into confident, caring, resilient individuals”*** really stand out. This is what is important to us as a school. We are a place where we achieve good outcomes for our children but at the core of everything we do is ensuring that children have all the experiences we can provide them so that they go to secondary school as kind, caring, responsible and resilient people with all the tools we could possibly pack in to their learning tool box so that they can go on to achieve even greater things at their next school.

I would like to thank our terrific community for their support during the inspection. Whether it was a conversation with the inspector, kind words at the gate, completing the online survey or the cards and biscuits for the staff room – all were very gratefully received. It is when schools work in partnership with families that they are most successful. With partnership in mind, you will find accompanying this letter an invitation to a special meeting we will be holding to talk about our OFSTED report, our development priorities for the year ahead and our “new” curriculum. The event will be attended by staff and governors.

I hope you enjoy reading our report – it isn’t as detailed as I would like and I don’t think it does the best job at telling the reader just how special our school is (only families coming to our school know this!) but I hope you agree that it does convey the message that our school is not only a good school, but a great one and that children who come here are set on the right path and journey to become brilliant learners.

Yours sincerely,

Charlie King

