

HORRABRIDGE PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL

Working Together



Achieving Together

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Dear Parents/Carers

We are pleased to be able to share with you our latest Ofsted report following our recent inspection - the first Ofsted inspection we have received since November 2011.

Since our last inspection, you may be aware that there have been significant changes to the inspection framework that Ofsted uses to grade schools. It has been widely acknowledged that the expectations placed on schools have been significantly raised. This means that, whilst some schools do still receive an outstanding grade, this is now far more challenging to achieve than when our school achieved an outstanding grade in 2011.

As a result, we are genuinely delighted that the school has been graded as securely 'good' in all of the inspection judgements. We found the inspection experience to be a positive one and feel validated that the report aligns with our own evaluation of our school's strengths and areas for improvement. We are particularly proud that the inspectors noted that:

- *'The school is a purposeful and inspiring place for pupils to learn in. Pupils contribute positively to this through their conduct and behaviour.'*
- *'They (pupils) gain a wealth of experiences and opportunities to develop their talents and interests.'*
- *'Parents value the impact the school has on their children.'*
- *'The school provides a rich and ambitious curriculum for pupils right from the start.'*
- *'Reading is a priority and strength of the school.'*
- *'The school is tenacious in securing the right support for pupils.'*
- *'The school is a place where pupils have trusted relationships with adults, feel safe and want to attend.'*
- *'The staff show commitment to get the very best from pupils.'*

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We will now, of course, continue to work hard to address the two areas for improvement identified within the report. With regard to these two areas, please see below further detail for each:

- During the inspection, we discussed why we have redesigned our Mathematics curriculum and implemented a revised approach from the start of this Autumn Term. We made this change despite our pupils' outcomes in Mathematics at the end of Year 6 having significantly exceeded pupils' outcomes nationally for the last 12 years. We are pleased that the report acknowledges that *'The school has been bold in making this change, informed by a clear rationale.'*

In line with the school's own self-evaluation, we agree with Ofsted's view that we now need to fully establish our new Mathematics curriculum, in order to *'further strengthen the strong outcomes pupils achieve.'* Indeed, we believe that this is an accurate and inevitable point for development, given the fact that Ofsted visited so soon after we had implemented the change. We believe that Ofsted's recognition that there is *'strong, at times, exemplary, provision'* in *'embedded and well-established subjects'* (namely Reading, Art and Music-the three subjects that were looked at in detail, along with Mathematics) provides us with the confidence that we have a successful track record that will support our continued development.

- We also need to ensure that we work hard to continue to maintain our pupils' active engagement in all aspects of their learning. It was noted that *'...at times, pupils are overly passive.'* We are pleased that the inspectors recognised that *'The school is alert to this and working to address it with increasing impact'* however also acknowledge that this is an area that we need to continue to address and improve upon.

In conclusion, we would like to extend our gratitude as a school to all of our pupils who continue to do their best at school and who represented the school so well during the inspection. We are also extremely grateful to our parents/carers for the support that is provided to our pupils and to our school and for the wealth of positive feedback given to the inspectors.

Furthermore, we are extremely fortunate to have such a dedicated and skilled staff team working at our school, supported by a highly committed and passionate governing body.

As a result, we can look forward with confidence to continuing to provide *'a wealth of experiences and opportunities to develop their (pupils') talents and interests'* at Horrabridge Primary and Nursery School.

Yours faithfully



John Clarke
Headteacher