



Striving together for excellence and enjoyment

Tuesday 21st November 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Please find attached a copy of our recent Ofsted inspection report, which we hope you will take the time to read and see the many areas of strength highlighted within it.

Some inspections are graded and some are ungraded. You will see that the Ofsted inspection was a graded inspection which means that we receive a grading in five key areas, alongside an overall grading.

We received a grading of **good** in four areas which are as follows:

- Leadership and Management
- Early Years Provision
- Behaviour and Attitudes
- Personal Development

However, the grading for one area the “Quality of Education” which includes the curriculum provided by the school affects the overall judgement. As the school received a grading of “Requires Improvement” for this area, the overall judgement was limited to “Requires Improvement” and could not have been graded any higher. This is set out in the Ofsted framework for school inspection.

We feel that the Ofsted inspection was a positive and fair experience. The inspector agreed with our prior self-evaluation of the school’s strengths and areas for development. The inspector gave us one key area for development which concerns the development of our recently implemented curriculum, as this is linked to the judgement for “Quality of Education”.

During the last academic year the leadership identified the need to improve and ensure the curriculum meets the needs of our mixed age classes, in Geography, History, Science, Art and DT, to avoid repetition of learning or a disjointed learning experience.

After an extensive search, a new curriculum, *Cornerstones*, was selected. We started to teach and embed *Cornerstones* at the start of this academic year. Our inspection came just 6 weeks since its introduction and understandably it was not yet fully embedded across the school. As such, we highlighted this as an area of development in our self-evaluation.

The inspector agreed that the new curriculum could not have been implemented by the current leadership until this year. This has been further supported by our Hertfordshire Improvement Partner (HIP), a representative of Herts for Learning Education, in his regular visits to our school. Before the inspection took place, we had already arranged a programme of ongoing professional development with *Cornerstones* for all teachers through staff meetings, 1:1 training sessions. This programme of training has begun and will continue. All staff members are subject leaders and receive release time to lead their subject.

The curriculum being followed for our other subjects is well developed and has been in place for longer. Many positive aspects of our curriculum were highlighted. The inspection report comments that

“the curriculum is ambitious in most areas”.

“In reading, mathematics, early years and personal development, leaders and staff have undertaken work which has led to positive improvements for pupils’ learning. Where aspects of the curriculum are well developed, pupils can learn and remember lots.”

We feel that the inspection report was a fair reflection of where the school currently is with a newly implemented curriculum. We are already seeing the positive impact of our new curriculum across our school.

The report highlights strengths seen by the inspection team in countless areas across the school. We are proud of what the report says about the children who attend our school. We are sure that as parents of children who attend our school, you will also be proud to read these comments about your child and their peers.

“Good manners are commonplace and pupils look after their school environment”

“Lessons are rarely disrupted. At playtimes and lunchtimes pupils’ good behaviour continues.”

We know that parents of our youngest children currently in Wrens will recognise lots of the positive comments made about the provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage. The inspection team were clear that our youngest children get off to a great start and this mirrors what we see in school.

“Children settle quickly into their class routines in Reception. Relationships are strong and children play well together. All pupils are well supported in their early development because staff know them well.”

An Ofsted inspection team will revisit us within a 2 and a half year timeframe. We look forward to showing them how our curriculum has developed and been embedded across the school.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our staff team for their hard work, not just during the inspection, but at all times. The impact of their hard work was recognised throughout the Ofsted report and is also seen across the school every day. You will see that the report makes reference to staff wellbeing and workload which is something we continue to focus on as a school and as a leadership team.

As we move forwards, it is vitally important that we work together for the benefit of the children in our school. This will include welcoming and supporting new staff members to our school and I know you will join us in doing this.

Kind regards,

Jenn Magdeburg

Vanessa Cole

Headteacher

Chair of Governors (on behalf of the Board of Governors)

Headteacher: Mrs Jennifer Magdeburg
High Street, Pirton, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, SG5 3PS
Telephone: 01462 712370 Fax: 01462 713555
E-mail: admin@pirton.herts.sch.uk
www.pirtonschool.org.uk