



Striving together for excellence and enjoyment

Friday 8th May 2026

Dear Pirton School Community,

I intended to send home a newsletter today but due to recent events have decided to delay this until Monday. Instead, I wanted to write to you following our Ofsted visit earlier this week. Firstly, I want to say that the Ofsted report will not be out for some time. We have been told to anticipate a timeline of around 2 months to publication. Judging by the Ofsted website, this is in line with recently published reports.

I am not able to share the decisions made by Ofsted at this time, but I can say that I am looking forward to sharing the outcomes with you all when I am in the position to do so. The report is currently being written and quality assured by Ofsted before it is officially issued to us to distribute. I can also say that the inspection team commented positively in final feedback, as well as in many of the meetings I had with them, about the children being excellent ambassadors for their school. This is no surprise to me.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many of you who took the time to send emails to school, to speak to me and other members of staff on the playground or send cards/letters into school. We have a wonderful school community and we are grateful for the support we received. This support extended beyond our parents/carers to members of our local community and it was much appreciated.

This extract of an email was one of many received with a similar sentiment:

“We truly hope Ofsted see the nurturing school that you are, and that they recognise the hard work it takes to create a school community with a small funding pot. Regardless of the outcome, your value is not measured by Ofsted but rather the wellbeing of our children which is “outstanding” in our eyes.”

The staff team at Pirton are exactly that – a team – and this was demonstrated more than ever on Wednesday and Thursday. Over the two days of the inspection, they did what they usually do – supported each other whilst teaching and caring for your children and meeting the needs of every child within the resources that they have. The staff team had opportunities to speak to the inspection team individually, via a staff survey and in a group meeting, without school leadership present. The inspection team commented on the strong sense of team and mutual support between staff in all roles in the school.

I can also say that knowing Ofsted will not visit the school again for a significant period of time is a positive for staff wellbeing at all levels. It is stressful waiting for a “call” and it does impact on all staff. We have been in the “Ofsted window” for some time and so it is nice to go into the Summer Term knowing that we are no longer in this position.

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It is also important to recognise the pressure of this week. We received notification of the visit on Tuesday at 9.29am and the inspectors arrived at 7.50am on Wednesday, so there is simply no time to change usual practice. They see what usually happens in school and they see the positive difference every single member of staff makes for your children.

You may be aware that since our last inspection, Ofsted have introduced a new Inspection Framework. This is a major shift in how inspection findings are reported. Ofsted themselves stress that the new system cannot be compared to the old one.

Previously, schools received a single overall judgement such as Outstanding, Good, or Requires Improvement. Under the new framework, this approach has been replaced with **report cards** that break down performance into key areas:

- Inclusion (how well the school meets the needs of all children)
- Curriculum and Teaching
- Achievement
- Attendance and Behaviour
- Personal Development and Well-being
- Early Years
- Leadership and Governance

Safeguarding will also be clearly marked as 'Met' or 'Not Met'.

For each area the school will be assessed as meeting one of the following criteria:

- Exceptional – among the very best nationally, practice to share.
- Strong Standard – excellent, consistent work making a real difference.
- Expected Standard – everything the school should be doing to meet high expectations.
- Needs Attention – areas where work is underway but impact isn't yet visible.
- Urgent Improvement – significant changes needed.

A really key guide that you can watch in less than five minutes can be accessed here:

[New Ofsted report cards and grades: a guide for parents](#)

It is really important to stress that expected standard means exactly that, this is the level that schools are expected to be meeting. To meet the expected standard, schools must demonstrate that they are meeting **every bullet point** for that area as highlighted in the Ofsted toolkit. It is not "best fit" but a "**secure fit.**" In order to be assessed to be working at strong standard or exceptional, schools must be meeting **every bullet point** in these descriptors as well as **all the bullet points** in the expected standard. The Ofsted toolkit is available online to show you exactly what a school needs to do to be assessed at each of these standards, but it is not a quick read – 80 pages cover to cover!

I would like to end by thanking the entire team at Pirton School including our governors and volunteers. The staff, governors and volunteers have an impact at Pirton School in a range of ways not just during an Ofsted inspection but on a day to day basis. A school belongs to everyone who attends and works within it. Having been the Headteacher here for almost four years, it is a privilege to lead this school and to be involved in the academic and personal growth and development of your children. The inspection team commented to me on how well children here are known as individuals and how we work hard to foster a sense of belonging. This was some of the best feedback I could have hoped for and is at the essence of our practice at Pirton.

Have a lovely weekend. See you on Monday,

Mmagdeburg