



Longmeadow Primary School

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12th May 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I write to you today to share the full written report, from the school's recent Ofsted inspection.

Before getting into further details, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support, your positivity and your kindness this year; I have been made to feel very welcome at Longmeadow and the children (and staff) have all been a joy to work with. Thank you!

This past year has indeed been hugely beneficial for pupils and staff alike, and the collaboration opportunities across my two schools have been utterly brilliant. Both schools are better schools as a result.

Furthermore...

The overall 'grade' for our recent inspection tells us exactly what we already knew, and that is simply this - the school must keep working to improve.

Our pupils are fantastic, and they deserve the very best possible education. This Ofsted report is a reflection of all that has happened across the last six years and quite rightly expresses the fact that historic weaknesses, in the school's old curriculum, led to pupils underachieving. This is unacceptable and we have been working really hard this year to put right, what went wrong before.

I am very pleased that the report does still celebrate the successes seen so far. Particular 'highlights' of the report include...

'This is a friendly, welcoming school. Pupils are resilient ... they feel happy and safe.'

'The new curriculum now in place is helping pupils to improve...'

'The new leadership team is determined to improve the quality of education at Longmeadow... The curriculum is carefully ordered so that pupils build up their knowledge in each subject gradually.'

'Leaders provide training to support teachers' subject knowledge and to help them to deliver the curriculum effectively. Teachers explain new concepts clearly and use questioning to check pupils understanding. They use assessment to identify gaps or misconceptions. Future lessons then address these.'

'Reading is a priority and the school promotes a love of reading.'

Comments around the success of the new behaviour policy were also really heartening to hear...



'The new behaviour policy has had a strong impact in a short time... In classrooms, the atmosphere is generally calm and purposeful because pupils know the expectations.'

As were comments about our provision for pupils with SEND...

'Pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) are well supported. Leaders have developed a robust system for identifying these pupils' needs and putting plans in place to meet them. Pupils with SEND access the same curriculum as their peers. This is thanks to their individualised provision and the well-trained adults who support them.'

Lastly, comments about the trust that staff have, for the new processes, leads me to believe that the school has a very bright and successful future ahead.

'The many challenges the school has faced were unsettling for staff. However, staff enjoy working at the school and they trust senior leaders to continue to drive improvement.'

As well as these deeply positive and encouraging comments around what has been introduced this year, I do still wholeheartedly accept that, ultimately, the overall grading is not good enough and the children who attend this school deserve better.

The report does tell us exactly what we already knew, and we are working hard towards delivering a better quality of education than what has gone before. As the current interim leader of the school, I take full responsibility for the report and will continue to work hard to help drive improvements forward further still. Your children deserve the best!

I am proud of the work we have done so far, and of the better provision now in place, but further improvements are still needed (as they always are in life), and we will ensure these are done well.

Improvement work will now be focussed upon... ensuring the new phonics scheme is delivered strongly and in the way in which it has been designed, ensuring further training is given to staff so that the new curriculum continues to be delivered well and ensuring our personal development program continues and grows... amongst, of course, a great many other things too.

We remain determined to deliver a fantastic education to our pupils and this report will only support and help us to do that.

Should you wish to talk to me about the report further, then please do 'pop up' to see me on the KS2 playground gate most Tuesday and Wednesday mornings at drop-off time. I am at a pre-booked conference with UCL next Tuesday morning but will be back on-site next Wednesday and am happy to discuss things further when back. I will also be on the KS2 playground later this afternoon (12th May 2023) too.

Although a disappointing overall grade, this is still a very exciting time for children and staff at Longmeadow and there is a lot to be enthusiastic about - thank you for your ongoing support.

Mr Mills-Bishop
Executive Headteacher