



Jacobstow Primary School and Preschool

Making Memories, Nurturing Confidence, Inspiring Ambition for a Bright Future

Monday 21st March 2022

Dear Parents,

Firstly, I would like to thank all of our children, families, staff and governors for their support during our recent Ofsted inspection and throughout the last couple of years.

We have now received the final report from OFSTED following our inspection on February 2nd and 3rd 2022. The full report will be published on the OFSTED website within 8 working days of us receiving it and will also be published on our school website. However we are now allowed to share with parents and carers the outcome of the report.

Previously the school was judged as 'Good' (2) in February 2018 in a short one day inspection, with clear and urgent priorities for improvement which the inspector advised the school to address. In light of the scale of these priorities, they highlighted that our next inspection would need to be a full Section 5 two day inspection. At a short inspection the judgement cannot be changed. However, the findings of the 2018 report and the identified priorities were suggestive of the fact that if it had been a long inspection in 2018 the school's grading would have likely changed to Requires Improvement as the school had significant and urgent priorities to address. In our recent full, two day inspection, **the school was judged overall to be within the category of 'Inadequate' (4)**. Based on the previous report of 2018 and the priorities which were identified then, as well as the self-evaluation I undertook when I first joined the school, the outcome we have received now was not entirely unexpected. However, it is still clearly upsetting and disappointing due to the developments that have taken place throughout the last couple of years.

Having said that, **the inspectors found and recognised that there were positive changes within the school**. In their detailed feedback to myself and governors, the inspectors were able to talk to us about **the green shoots** which were evident as a result of the actions being taken to address the areas for improvement we had already identified as a school community. However, clearly due to the pandemic, we are not as far along our journey as we had hoped to be. The turbulent and unsettled two years we have experienced as a result of a global pandemic, lockdowns and supporting children and families through their return towards normality, has meant that the time we needed to address both historic and current issues effectively and for them to become embedded has been limited.

OFSTED said that school leaders **'have made recent efforts to reorganise the curriculum'** and in their deep dive around maths, they found that leaders had **'a clear understanding of how to plan learning so that pupils know, remember and are able to do more.'** They saw that recent work in reading and phonics **'is showing improvements with the youngest pupils.'**

OFSTED also recognised the work the school is doing **'to promote pupils' personal development'** and that **'staff build positive relationships with children'** with several parents **'stating that staff 'go the extra mile'** and that **'many parents feel lucky their children attend such a welcoming school community'**. They recognised that staff **'identify and respond to pupils' changing needs'** and **'effective group or one-to-one guidance is organised'** where necessary.

Inspectors identified that behaviour, both in lessons and around the school, shows that generally children **'conduct themselves well'** and that **'when work inspires and excites them, pupils behave well and work hard.'**

Our practice in the early years was recognised as being more effective, which we were reassured by, as recent significant changes have taken place in this area of the school. This work we have undertaken was demonstrated in practise by staff planning '**a range of activities to help check children's understanding**' and the children becoming '**excited when they feel success**' and '**being visibly proud**'.

The inspector recognised that '**since the previous inspection, the school has appointed a new headteacher.**' They commented that '**she knows what needs to improve. However, it is early days. Significant work is needed to bring about the necessary improvements.**'

Therefore, the inspectors highlighted a number of **key areas which need improvement. Many of which already formed part of our School Improvement Plan but are also now featured on our Response to Ofsted Rapid Improvement Plan.**

These include:

- Governors need to urgently ensure that safeguarding training is up-to-date and that recruitment checks are in line with guidance.
- Leaders need to ensure that our plans are followed through to enable children to develop their fluency and understanding of vocabulary throughout the school
- Leaders need to make sure the curriculum is based on an ambitious selection of subject specific skills pupils need to learn
- Governors must ensure they get to know more about the curriculum and develop their level of challenge to senior leaders urgently
- Leaders need to ensure they are compliant with the government's expectations about what should be published online.

It is obviously very disappointing for all members of staff that the outcome of the inspection has found that the school requires special measures to improve. However, I am very aware that the outcome will undoubtedly be very disappointing for you as parents also. It has to be said that **all staff in school remain committed to providing the best education, outcomes and experiences for the children of Jacobstow Community Primary School.**

With the publication of the report, **now is the time to look forward and continue to address the issues that we have already been working on, as well as those additional areas highlighted in the report.** Ultimately, the goal we have to always keep clear in our minds is that we are working as a united team to ensure that **the children of Jacobstow School receive the high quality education that they deserve in a happy and safe environment where all children are supported to reach their potential.** We hope that you as parents will continue to support us with this aim and helps us to embed our mission statement: Making Memories, Nurturing Confidence, Inspiring Ambition for Bright Futures.

To give parents the opportunity to raise any questions you may have regarding the OFSTED report and the subsequent next steps for the school, **we would like to invite you to an open parents' meeting at school on Tuesday 22nd March at 5:00pm.** On this occasion, we are unable to accommodate a crèche due to the number of external visitors we will have at this meeting and as our staff are also invited to attend the meeting.

Yours sincerely



Mikaela Rofe
Headteacher



Jo Marriott
Chair of Governors