

# St Mary's C.E. Primary School

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Headteacher: Mr Calvin Henry



12<sup>th</sup> December 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you are well.

We appreciate how challenging the last 12 months have been for many of us for lots of different reasons. That is why we felt it was so important to finish the calendar year with some really positive news.

As you may recall, at the start of September, we had to share with you the news that our school had been placed into a category of concern by Ofsted. While we did not agree with the judgement, we felt that the best thing we could do for our community was to listen, to make any appropriate changes and to get ready to show inspectors a truer and accurate reflection of our school when they returned.

At the beginning of November, Ofsted came back to our school for their first monitoring visit. This should have simply been a visit where they confirmed that our school was making effective progress towards removing the Inadequate grade we had been given. The inspectors were, however, so impressed by what they saw that they turned this monitoring visit into a full inspection and a large team of very experienced inspectors came to effectively repeat the previous inspection.

**We are thrilled to tell you that this time, our school was graded as GOOD in every category – and is now, once more, an Ofsted graded ‘Good’ school overall.**

It is fair to say that we are delighted with this outcome. During the inspection, your children (as always), shone. Also, our staff deserve a huge amount of praise for how they stepped up to show everything they are capable of, and the support from our community was tangible.

As a result, inspectors noted that:

- Pupils are happy and safe at this school. They describe the atmosphere here as being kind and caring.
- Leaders strive to provide pupils with the education and social skills they need to prosper in life. Their work is underpinned by the school's values.
- From the moment children join the Nursery, they are taught to respect all people.
- Leaders make it a priority to teach reading, right from the start of the Nursery class.
- Children in the early years show great focus and engagement. They learn to negotiate together and problem-solve.

- The school's curriculum matches the ambition of the national curriculum. Pupils achieve well across the different subjects.
- Through assemblies and the curriculum, staff explain to pupils how to form healthy relationships. They help pupils to understand their feelings and how to act responsibly.
- The curriculum is also enhanced with many visits. Pupils relish the many enrichment clubs on offer.

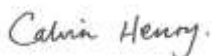
We appreciate that there may be questions about how a school can be graded as Inadequate at one visit yet receive such a positive report for an inspection just a few months later. Over time, we will reflect on our journey and hopefully share some feedback with the appropriate individuals about the impact that this journey has had. For now, we are just simply delighted that our school now has an Ofsted grading that better reflects who we are and what we are about.

The report will be published on the Ofsted website in the New Year, but we have put it on the school website now so that you can read it in its entirety – and we would really encourage you to do so! It is a brilliant testament to the resilience and ethos of our school and our community. Click [here](#) to see our new report.

Finally, we just wanted to say thank you for standing by us. Your support has been crucial in helping drive our determination to put right what did not go to plan during the previous inspection. Also, you have understandably challenged us where needed as together, we all want the best for your children.

In January, we will continue to address the valid points for improvement that are raised in this report, but for now we hope that this report will provide some much-needed festive cheer.

Thank you, and the warmest of regards:



Calvin Henry  
Headteacher



Charlotte Adlam  
Chair of Governors