

# ST. HELEN'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL



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12<sup>th</sup> February 2015

Dear Parents and Carers,

I attach a copy of the school's OFSTED report from the recent inspection which took place on 27<sup>th</sup> and 28th January 2015. As you know, the school has been working hard to bring our vision of 'excellence, enjoyment and achievement together' into a reality, with a sustained, sharp focus on three key OFSTED development issues:

- Raising the quality of teaching in the school (Quality of Teaching)
- Improving the progress that children make in reading, writing and maths (Achievement)
- Developing school leadership and the role of the governing body (Leadership and Management)

We are delighted that OFSTED have recognised the rapid progress that the school has made in each of these areas and in their **overall judgment of the school as a 'Good' school.**

## Key quotes:

I am sure that you will take the time to read the report, but I wanted to pick out a few key quotes and comment on them below:

*'Pupils make faster progress than they did at the time of the last inspection and are now making progress that is better than expected for their age.'*

We are really pleased with the progress that the children are making across the school in their learning. Hopefully you will get a chance to look in your child's books during the 'Open Classroom' event, or at the next parents' evening. The children are rightly proud of them - as we all are!

*'Since its formation, the senior team has made significant improvements to the quality of teaching and pupils' achievement and behaviour. The pace of this change has been rapid and there is good momentum for continued improvement.'*

I'd like to particularly recognise the efforts of my senior leadership team, two of whom only joined the school in September. Mr Adams, Mrs Boffin, Mr Chappell and I share a common vision for the school and I am grateful to them for throwing themselves wholeheartedly into life at St Helen's!



*'Governance has improved very significantly since the last inspection... They have high aspirations for St Helen's.'*

The governors somehow manage to juggle their own busy lives as well as volunteering to provide the school with support and challenge in our journey to continuously improve.



*'The quality of teaching is good, and has improved since the last inspection.' 'The curriculum is broad and rich and provides suitable challenge. It is exciting and engages pupils well. Literacy and numeracy are at its heart, ensuring that pupils develop these basic skills well. British values are fully embedded in the curriculum and the school prepares its pupils well for the next stage of their education and life beyond.'*

The teaching staff (including teaching assistants) work so hard, day in day out, to provide engaging learning experiences and we are really pleased that teaching was recognised across the school as being at least good. Our development point is to share the best practice that we have within the school to ensure that the quality of teaching continues to improve.

*'Good provision is made for the children in the Reception class. They make good progress and achieve a good level of development.'*

A recent change in the OFSTED framework is that Early Years has its own grade. Children at St Helen's have a great start with Mrs Boffin and her excellent team and we are pleased that this was recognised.

*'Pupils show high levels of respect for adults, their peers and their environment. They take particular pride in the work in their books and are justly proud of its quality.'*

As I mentioned in my letter following our inspection, the children were as always, a credit to the school and to the parents of St Helen's. What we are really noticing at the moment is the incredible focus on learning that they are now showing right across the school and then subsequently how proud they are becoming of their learning and their achievements. It's great that OFSTED couldn't fail to notice this during their two days in our school.



### **Thank-you**

I want to place on record my sincere thanks to the children, staff, parents and governors of the school for all of their hard work, dedication and support to the school over many years. St Helen's is a fantastic school and although we are pleased with the outcome, we know that in many ways the journey is only just beginning.

It is our ambition that St Helen's will one day be regarded by others as an 'Outstanding' school and whilst we acknowledge that we don't always get everything right, we are committed to working together as a community to make the school the very best that it can be for the children.

Thanks for your ongoing support,

Andy Spens  
Headteacher

