



Stonebow

Every Child Matters Every Day Counts

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Dear Parents, Staff and Fellow Governors,

By now you will be aware of the recent OFSTED Section 5 school inspection report following their visit on 12th and 13th September 2019. The result lifted the school out of Requires Improvement (RI) to a solid Good. The school was first judged as RI on 10th March 2015 and the next Inspection on 27th April 2017 indicated we were doing better and judged us as Good on everything except for outcomes for pupils, which unfortunately meant we stayed as RI. This was due to the Key Stage 2 SATS results. Since then, these too have improved thanks to the changes made. I was elected Chair of Governors on 28th September 2015 and I can confirm that the Staff and Governors were committed to turning the school around and making the changes required to put the school back to where it belonged. This has taken time and dedication from the staff, embracing new ideas, new systems and assessments, it has seen the departure of one Head and the arrival of another, but none the less the changes required have taken place.

We now know all of the changes made under former Head, Mrs Jane Fines, and the additional changes by the current Head, Mr Paul Brockless, have filtered through to provide the results required and I am grateful to both of them for the hard work they have personally put in to the school. Throughout all of this time the Staff and Governors have continued to uphold the ethos of the school that is one of inclusivity and a broad curriculum. Our belief in developing children to be rounded individuals with a love for learning has held true throughout. This belief has seen us develop to give the results without becoming an exam factory and still offering the caring and fun experience children thrive in.

The result from OFSTED comes under a new system of assessment that can be viewed under the OFSTED website. This is now curriculum focused and the school has done very well in the areas they have assessed. In particular, they were keen that schools are not narrowing their focus to just English and Maths at the end of Key Stage 2 and were very happy to see that we do not do this. As one of the first schools to be assessed under the new system, this placed additional pressure on the Staff who did brilliantly in demonstrating to the inspectors what we do and how we do it at Stonebow.

There are, as always, areas for improvement and the staff and Governors are under no illusion that our efforts can rest here. The inspectors also highlighted areas where we are doing very well and these areas will be built upon as we move forward and continuously improve, without diluting the ethos we believe in.



Valid to: June 2021



After 4 ½ years of effort, I am pleased to see the staff rewarded with this fantastic result. This feels like it has been a long time coming but I hope you will join me in thanking the entire staff, for their steadfast commitment to the school and making the changes that were required. This result upholds what we knew back in 2017; that this is a good school with great potential. I am humbled to be able to work with such great staff and governors and can say that as a community your support has been fantastic.

We now take a brief pause to celebrate our staff and to assure you that we intend to keep the improvement going to offer a great educational experience to your children in the best environment we can create. Finally, thank you for the support you give by simply choosing our school for your children, we intend to prove we are worthy of your confidence.

Kind Regards

Tim Willson
Chair of Governors