

A.I.M. HIGH at



Aspiration. Inspiration. Motivation.

Wednesday 12th March 2025

Dear Parents & Carers

I am delighted to share with you the outcomes and report from our recent Ofsted inspection. It fills us with pride to read the opening line, '*Pupils are extremely happy at this warm, inclusive school*', and this sets the tone for the rest of the report. This letter summarises the outcomes and key messages from the inspection as well as collating a number of the statements included within the report. We have sent out a copy of the report in full on ClassDojo and it can also be accessed on our school website.

Almost 12 years have passed since the school's last inspection and there have been substantial changes to Ofsted's process and expectations since that time. One such change is that schools no longer receive an overall judgment and instead are graded in 5 separate areas:

- *Quality of Education*
- *Early Years*
- *Behaviour & Attitudes*
- *Personal Development*
- *Leadership & Management*

I am incredibly proud to inform you that we received an Outstanding judgement in 4 out of these 5 areas, with the remaining area (*Quality of Education*) being graded Good. Furthermore, the inspection team made it clear to governors and the local authority that we are on the verge of Outstanding in this area too, as a result of the rapid improvement in standards over the last couple of years.

In 2023, following a thorough review of teaching standards and the curriculum, we began the process of redeveloping our school curriculum and transforming our teaching methodology in line with the best research and cognitive science:

'Over the past two years, the school has established new leadership and new curriculums for many subjects. These curriculums are highly ambitious and engaging for all pupils.'

The impact on children's learning and outcomes has already been transformative, as demonstrated by our results in national assessments last summer when Whitby Heath children were above the national figures in Reading, Maths and the English Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling SATS tests, whilst the percentage of pupils achieving the Phonics standard in Y1 has doubled from 40% in 2022 to 80% in 2024.

The inspection team advised that the new curriculum is now delivered '*expertly*' by staff, and the school simply needs more time to overcome the gaps in learning from the previous curriculum. Additionally, the report states that our school '*has very high expectations for what pupils can achieve. Pupils understand these expectations and they rise to them. They achieve highly.*' This is a remarkable achievement by the staff in such a short period of time and I would like

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to thank them for their hard work and dedication to providing our children with the highest standard of education.

It was also lovely to see that the inspectors observed the children demonstrating our School Values throughout their visit. In 2023 we decided to remove the school rules and replace them instead with 8 School Values. We felt that children follow rules because they are told to, whereas values are instilled within and therefore would have a greater impact in developing their character. The inspection team commented, *'Whitby Heath's school values, for example to 'show kindness and respect for yourself and all others' and to 'demonstrate honesty and responsibility', are beautifully lived out in the exemplary way that pupils behave.'*

I am sure you will want to read the report in full, but here are a few more comments that I would like to highlight:

- *From the moment children enter the Reception Year, their independence is cultivated. Staff model high-quality communication and language through exciting activities. As a result, children can articulate and explain things exceptionally well when talking to each other or adults.*
- *Pupils' behaviour in lessons and around school is exemplary. The school has successfully developed a culture whereby pupils are highly motivated to learn.*
- *The school quickly identifies the needs of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND)... Thoughtful lesson adaptations ensure that pupils with SEND thrive in all aspects of their development.*
- *Governors know the school exceedingly well and are committed to providing the best outcomes for pupils*

Thank you to the children, staff, parents/families, governors and all members of the Whitby Heath community for your support during the inspection and throughout the last couple of years – it is truly appreciated.

Finally, it is also important to remember that whilst receiving such positive external validation is nice, it is not what drives our team. Our goal is simply to provide the best possible start for children so they can go on to reach their potential in life. With such strong foundations in place across school we continue to be excited and motivated to achieve this aim.

Yours sincerely



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Headteacher

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