



**Starbeck Community Primary
and Nursery School**

15th October 2018

Dear Parents

Following Mr de Castro Morland's letter last week regarding the HMI visit to the school I am writing to give you a more detailed update on the feedback from Ofsted.

The inspection was the first monitoring visit since the school was the subject of special measures in April 2017. The purpose of the visit was to check the progress the school has made against the development plans we have in place and to validate that improvements were being made in the key areas identified in the original report as requiring attention. The Inspector spent 2 days in school during which time she observed lessons, scrutinised our development plans, reviewed pupils work, spoke to pupils and met with members of the Senior Leadership Team and the Governors.

The full report will be available on the school website however the headlines are that the school is making fantastic progress against the development plans we have put in place and that the results of those plans and improvements are already being seen and realised across the school. Some snippets from the report are as follows:

- Leaders and managers are taking effective action towards the removal of special measures
- The school improvement plan and the local authority action plans are judged as being fit for purpose
- The Headteacher has raised expectations across the entire school
- The Leadership team are engaged and aligned to the school vision
- Teaching assistants are better prepared to support the learning of pupils who have Special Educational Needs
- The Headteacher has set up new systems and held staff to account for the progress of pupils
- Staff at all levels have received considerable training, including in the teaching of phonics, writing and mathematics
- The leader for mathematics has effectively supported improvements to teaching in this subject
- The leader for literacy has overseen the introduction of a new approach to writing
- Evidence in pupils' books shows that they are given ample opportunities to practise and embed new skills
- Effective challenge from the governing body has resulted in appropriate action being taken by leaders to support pupils to attend school regularly
- Outcomes in 2018 were much better. Pupils' attainment is now broadly in line with, or above, national averages at all key stages in reading, writing and mathematics
- Pupils, including those who are disadvantaged, are now making better progress than in the past and their progress throughout school this year, particularly in writing and mathematics, is to be celebrated
- Pupils really value the raft of extra-curricular opportunities they now have
- Governors now have an accurate picture of the performance of the school and are well able to challenge leaders
- Governors check that what they are being told by leaders is accurate through questioning senior and middle leaders and through regular visits to school.

Obviously, this is a very good and pleasing report from HMI and one that everyone involved in the school should be proud of, in particular the Leadership Team and staff who have worked tirelessly to implement the changes that were needed. It also provides external validation that the steps we are taking are the right ones and of course helps us identify some additional areas to focus on.

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The challenge now is not to rest on our laurels, as has often been the case previously, and to continue to focus on developing and improving the school, the teaching we provide to the pupils and the outcomes that they achieve. The School Development plan for 2018 and 2019 was approved at the Annual Meeting of the Governing Body last week and in addition we have refocussed some areas of governance including areas of Link Governance that each member of the Full Governing Board focusses on. We will continue to monitor and challenge the progress and of course keep you updated as things change and develop through the year.

Finally, I would like to add my personal thanks, and those of the Governing Body, to Mr de Castro Morland and the staff for their support. This inspection is not the result of a good two days that the inspector was in school but instead is the result of 18 months of hard work, dedication and focus.

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Walker', written in a cursive style.

Richard Walker
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