

Parkfield Primary School

Parkfield Road, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 4RT

Headteacher: Mr Gareth Jones

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PARKFIELD SCHOOL
felicitas per ardua

17th November 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

As most of you are aware we were inspected by Ofsted on Tuesday 7th and Wednesday 8th November. As I said at the time, as a school community, we should be very proud of the way the children and staff conducted themselves during the two days and to those of you who completed the Parent View questionnaire on-line, sent in emails or took time to speak to the inspectors, thank you I appreciated your kind words and support.

This inspection was carried out under the new, more stringent OFSTED Framework for Inspections. The school has been given a grade for '**Overall Effectiveness**' as well as grades for 5 areas:

- **Effectiveness of leadership and management**
- **Quality of teaching, learning and assessment**
- **Personal development, behaviour and welfare**
- **Outcomes for pupils**
- **The effectiveness of the early years provision**

The grades that can be awarded are Outstanding (1), Good (2), Requires Improvement (3) or Inadequate (4).

As you will see from the report Ofsted now judges Parkfield Primary School as 'Requires Improvement'.

As we know the last Ofsted inspection was in July 2008. Since this last inspection, nearly 10 years ago, there have been a number of changes. There is a new Ofsted inspection framework; a new primary curriculum has been introduced and new assessment arrangements have been implemented. All of which are more rigorous and challenging and have significantly higher expectations put upon schools and children. The inspectors make clear their belief that recent uncertainty in leadership and governance have contributed to this judgement.

Even though this report and judgement is disappointing for the school community, the report clearly acknowledges that since September much work has already begun, to make the necessary changes to deal with underperformance and drive school improvement:

'The new headteacher is effective and has quickly gained an accurate view of the school. His ambition and vision on behalf of the pupils is having a galvanising effect. He is inspiring other leaders, staff, pupils and governors alike. As a result, the school is already taking the necessary steps to improve. He has already started to improve teaching, as he is raising expectations and pupils are being challenged to achieve more. The introduction of clear 'non-negotiables' means that teachers know what is expected of them and are familiar with national benchmarks and expectations in reading, writing and mathematics.' Ofsted 2017

It is also worth mentioning that Ofsted have recognised clear strengths within the school including:

- **Recently appointed governors are taking effective action to improve the school.**
- **Pupils enjoy a rich and diverse curriculum.**
- **The early years foundation stage is good. Children get a good start and are well prepared for key stage 1.**
- **A new policy and strategies for improving behaviour are having a positive impact so that pupils' general conduct is good.**

We take child protection extremely seriously at our school. If you have a concern, you can speak to any of the school's designated and trained Child Protection officers: **Mrs Skyner, Miss Chave or Mr Jones**. Alternatively, you can ring Children Social Care on: **0300 123 2224** or email **childrens@somerset.gov.uk**

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Clearly, we are just starting on this journey and there are still many things to do. However, to move the school from a (3) 'requires improvement', to a (2) 'good' and ultimately (1) 'outstanding', will require every part of Parkfield school community working together and sharing in this vision with determination. It is important that parents/carers are a part of this, so strengthening the link between home and school is vitally important to me. Being a parent of two primary school aged children myself, I know how important it is to have effective communication between home and school. As you are the most important person in your child's life, it's really important that we work together to support each other in making sure your child gets the best education possible. To ensure this happens, clear communication between all members of the school community is vital.

Following a period of uncertainty and a lack of strong leadership, there is now a sense of excitement and anticipation amongst the staff as we begin to work towards achieving these goals and beyond.

I am very proud and honoured to have been appointed Headteacher at Parkfield. The school is clearly greatly valued in the local community and I look forward to this exciting challenge and leading Parkfield through its next phase of development. I have one simple aspiration - to work with others to make the school one which all children, parents, staff, governors and the local community are deeply proud of.

Once again, can I thank you for all the support you have given me, not only during the inspection week but since I arrived in September. A key paragraph in the report has reinforced this for me:

'The headteacher is having a positive and galvanising impact on the school community to raise morale and expectations. Pupils, staff and parents overwhelmingly recognise and endorse his efforts. A parent, whose view was typical, said, 'The school is now heading in the right direction.' Ofsted 2017

If there are any concerns or worries you have please do not hesitate to contact the school and set up a meeting with me. I am really looking forward to working with you all and moving Parkfield School forward in the best interest of all children.

Yours sincerely



Mr G. Jones

Headteacher

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