



Headteacher: **Mrs H Coles**

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Dear Parents and Carers,

So we finally have had our inspection! You will find an attached OFSTED report which outlines the areas that they were inspecting, areas where we were good and areas which need further development.

Although we had been expecting it for a while now, it was still a shock on the first day back after the Christmas holidays. However, the whole process was a really positive one that exactly reflected where we knew we were as a school. The team were also very supportive and we feel that we learned lots and are ready for the next stage of our St Lawrence's journey.

As a school, we have worked very hard over the last few years on particular parts of school. We began with behaviour and the aspirations and welfare of our children. We wanted St Lawrence's children to know that we believed they could achieve great things and we also wanted parents to know that we were here for them as well. Both these areas were identified as being 'Good' which we are really pleased about. All staff work incredibly hard to try and solve problems between children when they occur, to follow up afterwards and check that the children are ok and happy, but we have also worked hard on trying to prevent incidents happening in the first place. The children were also able to tell the inspectors that teachers would always listen to them and try and solve problems so this was nice to hear.

In terms of pupil welfare, the inspectors praised the amount of activities and clubs that the children have access to and recognised that we try and keep costs to a minimum for our families. We have worked hard to make sure the children visit and do things they might not always be able to, or to bring different visitor in to school that they might not normally see.

They also praised the fact that our children accept everyone in school. We are so proud that our children know about different religions, cultures, faiths and understand that people have different ideas and opinions and that is fine. The children said it was ok to be different. If only the whole world was like that! The inspectors recognised that anyone making fun or commenting about someone else in that way was spoken to and dealt with appropriately.

Three years ago, our children were not doing very well in English, Maths and RE. We have worked extremely hard in these subjects and now have consistent methods in place, high expectations and children are achieving a lot more – progress is excellent across school. We have also focused on RE and ensuring that we deliver a high quality RE curriculum which is now in place. This means that when the children move on to secondary school, they are able to keep up with their peers and have learning habits that help them to do really well.

For the inspectors to recognise the hard work that we have put in and the improvements across school was really good and we are really pleased with the findings for these areas. 3 'Goods' can't be bad!

The inspection team highlighted that we had work to do on the other subjects across school and phonics. We completely agree with this and we have been working on these areas since September as they are our school priorities. It was really good that we knew what would come out of the inspection and had already begun developing these areas.

They have asked us to look at other subjects in the curriculum such as history, PE, etc. These subjects are taught as part of a topic but we are now working on ensuring that each year builds upon the previous year's work. This is a huge body of work that we are just at the start of but are very excited about. It will take some time to get this to the position we would like it to be, but we are already putting in place learning overviews, Topic Journey books and assessments.

They also spoke about phonics and the need to be consistent across all year groups. Again, we agree with this which is why we had already put in place training for staff and ordered new books to ensure that the books are at the right level and not too hard – or too easy!

They highlighted absences as well. We could really do with your help here! We know that, on occasion, children are ill and cannot come to school. We are also aware of how much more expensive holidays are as travel companies put the prices up during the holidays making it really difficult for families to afford to go. However, we would urge everyone to try and make sure that holidays are kept to a minimum so that the children are in school as much as possible. There are also occasions where there is no reason for a child to be off school and again, we would urge every parent to try and get their child into school, on time, so that they can keep learning – even when they might not want to!

During the previous inspection the school was placed in special measures. We are now officially out of special measures and well on our way to 'Good' which we are so pleased about. It is down to all the hard work of the staff and pupils that this has happened and we could not be prouder of our school.

We would also like to thank parents and carers during the process. The support that you provided and the comments that you made to the inspectors were really appreciated and valued by the school team. Thank you!

Now, we roll our sleeves up, look at what we need to do and crack on!

Kind regards



Mrs H Coles
Headteacher