

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019**

### **Welcome Back!**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome back to the start of 2019! I hope you all had a good break with your family and friends, and I know that the staff will join me in thanking you all for your kind and generous gifts at the end of last term.

As you will be aware, the school was inspected by Ofsted on 11<sup>th</sup> December and I am pleased to share with you the inspection outcome report attached. We are delighted that Shottermill Juniors has **retained its good judgement**. We feel that this is a very positive outcome for the staff and Governors who have all worked so hard to ensure that our children receive the very best quality of education at our school.

We feel that the report is exceptionally positive and demonstrates that our high standards have been effectively maintained and pupils are well supported and achieve well across our rich and varied curriculum. In particular, we were pleased to have effectively addressed all of the areas for improvement from the previous inspection and that the following key strengths were identified:

- ✓ **There is a highly ambitious culture. All staff, including specialist teachers, work together to provide the most appropriate learning experiences for pupils.**
- ✓ **Teachers use assessment information to identify gaps in pupils' knowledge and are skilled in addressing these gaps with well-planned teaching and learning opportunities.**
- ✓ **Leaders at all levels are taking the necessary steps to improve outcomes for pupils, particularly in Maths.**
- ✓ **Pupils take pride in their work and standards of presentation are good.**
- ✓ **More able pupils are effectively challenged and achieve well.**
- ✓ **Pupils with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities are very well supported and the attainment gap has also been significantly reduced for disadvantaged pupils.**
- ✓ **There is a high level of pastoral support for pupils – ensuring that they feel happy and safe in school. Incidents of bullying are low and swiftly dealt with if they do occur.**



We agree fully with the recommendations from the report which state that leaders and those responsible for governance should ensure that:

- the successful strategies for improving achievement in mathematics are extended to all year groups, so that progress for all pupils improves quickly.
- they identify which of the school development plans' actions are most effective and prioritise these to maximise pupils' progress.

This first bullet point refers to our work this year so far as part of a Maths Mastery Teacher Research group using 'White Rose' Maths Hub planning in Years 4 & 5. Together with the inspector, we agree that the improvements seen in pupil achievement in these year groups are very positive and therefore we plan to roll this out to Years 3 and 6 also over the coming year. We plan to share more information about this approach to teaching Maths with our Parent Forum this term.

The second bullet point refers to the earlier mention in the report: 'Leaders' plans for school improvement are very detailed and describe many on-going actions.' From our feedback from the inspector, we agree that we need to use our evaluation to focus on the really important actions that have the greatest impact. This is particularly important when budgets are tight and resources are stretched. As a result, we will be working with our partners to streamline our improvement plans and develop fewer more focused improvement priorities over the coming terms.

I would like to thank all of our parents who are hugely supportive of the school and communicated this by way of the online survey or discussions held with the inspector at the school gate on the morning of the inspection. As always, the pupils were fantastic during the day, singing their hearts out in assembly, behaving impeccably and speaking so articulately to the inspector. Our Governors have also shown high standards of professionalism, commitment and support to all staff – ensuring that there is always effective leadership and oversight of the school.

One of the best outcomes of any school inspection is that it brings a team together and I am extremely thankful to all members of my team who have continued to demonstrate that they are all committed and highly professional members of staff, who place the interests of children at the heart of everything we do. Altogether, we can say that our inspection was a hugely positive and affirming experience and places us in an excellent position to continue our journey further together as a whole school community.

Wishing you all a very Happy New Year,



Mrs Kate Barnes  
**Headteacher**

