



Writtle Infant School

A very special place, where learning has no limits.

Headteacher: Mrs. Helen Castell | Deputy Headteacher: Mrs. Tracey Wilson

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Dear Parents

I am delighted to share our OFSTED report with you, which we are really pleased with. The report confirms that we remain a good school. I am immensely proud of our children and the report is testament to the hard work and commitment of all our staff. It is also fair to say that due to a limited word count, there were many positive comments about other areas of the school that do not feature in the report. This includes more information about 3 very successful "deep dives" (lesson observations, work scrutiny and discussion with subject leads, staff and pupils) into Early Reading, Maths and History. The many highlights include:

- Pupils personify the school values.
- The curriculum is well structured and focuses PRECISELY on what children need to know.
- Staff have high expectations.
- Leaders have high ambitions for pupils with special educational needs.
- There is smooth transition for the children.
- Leaders care deeply for their staff.
- Pupils are confident that staff sort out issues quickly.
- Leaders place a high priority on early reading.
- Leaders' commitment to pupils' personal development is strong.
- The culture of safeguarding is robust.
- Teachers regularly check on pupils' understanding in all subjects. This means that any pupils falling behind can be quickly identified. Teachers then provide support to help them catch up quickly.
- Leaders have had a significant impact on raising attendance, particularly for pupils with SEND and disadvantaged pupils.
- Pupils' positive attitudes to learning mean little learning time is lost.

We are particularly proud that due to our rigorous monitoring and reviewing of our provision, there were no areas of development that we had not already considered. The one area for improvement, which as the report states leaders have already identified, refers to books linking to our current phonics scheme. We are already looking at alternative phonics schemes, for example seeing them in practice at other schools, but a new scheme would not be fully embraced until all staff had the necessary training and funds in place. Our focus will be to continue to build on our good practice.

On a personal level, I am so proud to retire after such a successful report and I know that Mrs Wilson and Mr Taylor will continue to build on what we have achieved.

Happy reading!

Helen Castell
Headteacher

Esther Burton
Co-chair of Governors

Matt Coffey
Co-chair of Governors

