



Harting C. of E. Primary School

Headteacher: Mr Nick Tidey
www.harting.w-sussex.sch.uk

Thursday 8th September 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

As you will all be aware towards the end of last term we had Section 5 Ofsted Inspection which saw two inspectors visiting the school over a two day period. I would like to again thank you all for your support for the school during this time and for your patience in waiting for further information on the visit. Following their visit I have been waiting for the finalised report which I have now received and am able to share with you all.

As part of the inspection process, I had a detailed conversation with the lead inspector before they visited the school. This gave me the opportunity to share both the current strengths of the school and areas we are developing. I am pleased to be able to inform you that the many strengths of the school, as well as two specific areas for development which the report details, were those that had already been identified by the leadership team.

Something that we are particular pleased with is the fact that the inspector recognised that 'the new Headteacher and other leaders know what needs to be improved. They have already started on the journey.' We, as was the inspector, recognise that the school is already addressing the two areas for improvement and are confident that necessary changes will be in place and embedded into practise rapidly – thus leading to further improved outcomes for all pupils.

When making their judgement the inspectors were not able to take into consideration any of the plans we had for September which already further addressed the two areas for development. Instead they were only permitted to judge the school on what was actually in place on the two days of their visit.

Naturally we are disappointment for the school to have been graded at requires improvement (previously called satisfactory). As you will see in the report the school was graded as the following:

Behaviour and attitudes: **Good**

Personal development: **Good**

Leadership and management: **Good**

Early years provision: **Good**

Quality of education: **Requires improvement**

Please see below their rational for grading the quality of education as requires improvement:

- 'Pupils with SEND are not always successful in their learning. This is because aspirations for them are not always high enough. Also, the curriculum has not always been successfully adapted for their needs'.
- 'Assessment arrangements in the foundation subjects (Geography, History, Art etc..) do not always identify the key components of knowledge pupils need to learn'.

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Tipper Lane, South Harting, West Sussex, GU31 5QT Tel:01730 825 388
Email: office@harting.w-sussex.sch.uk
Facebook and Instagram [@hartingprimary](#)



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Due to the way in which the Ofsted framework must be followed, this single 'requires improvement' grade prevents inspectors from awarding an overall rating of good.

We are fully confident that the two areas which have been identified are those that we were already addressing and which continue to be developed with rapid progress already having been made.

During the inspection the school was encouraged to request Ofsted return as soon as possible to re inspect to show the further changes we have made. I will be following this advice and requesting a visit ahead of the Ofsted schedule.

From reading the report I am sure that you will get the overall sense of positivity from the inspectors. I am delighted that they identified the pupils, parents and staff sense of positivity about the journey the school is on and that children feel 'happy and safe' at Harting. I am also very pleased that the inspectors identified many of the significant changes which were made to the school last year and the positive impact these have had on raising standards across the school. These include:

- The new approach to the teaching of phonics and the newly expanded library with children 'quickly becoming fluent readers'
- The newly revised behaviour policy which was recognised as having 'radically improved behaviour'
- The way in which the school meets the welfare needs of all pupils including those with SEND
- The wide range of extra-curricular activities the school offers
- The effective measures in place to safeguard all children
- Pupils sense that staff are nurturing and kind.
- The schools sense of community and value of 'Love Others as Self'
- The schools well-sequenced curriculum
- The schools strong assessment processes in reading and mathematics

Once again I would like to thank you all for your ongoing support for both the children and the school. This successful partnership is one of the many things that makes Harting CE Primary School the incredibly special place it is, and I for one feel truly honoured to be able to be leading the school on such an exciting journey where children sit at the heart of all decisions made.

I would now like to give you all some time to read over and digest the content of the Ofsted Report and celebrate the many successes we have achieved in the past year. In addition I would like to invite all parents to meet with myself and governors on **Monday 12th September 18:00 – 19:00** in the school hall. This will be an opportunity for me to talk through the report in greater detail and provide parents with a greater understanding of both the work already done and that we have planned in addressing the two areas for improvement.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Tidey

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