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8th June 2018

Dear Parents / Carers,

Following our recent OFSTED inspection, we have now received our short inspection letter and we are pleased to report to you that there is no change to the school's current overall effectiveness grade of 'good'. From this inspection there are, as ever, some things that the school needs to improve and develop and there are 'next steps' for the school to complete.

The inspectors acknowledged the significant and challenging few years that the school has had. In spite of and because of these challenges, the inspectors report that *"The staff, supported by national curriculum specialists, have designed and implemented the Ash Lea curriculum to suit the very specific needs of the pupils...The more effective curriculum, coupled with the improved accommodation, is leading to improved rates of progress for almost all pupils and to a significant reduction in challenging behaviour incidents...the Headteacher and the governing body have ensured that the new school accommodation and budgetary issues have been addressed. You have also introduced a comprehensive new curriculum across the school. These three high-priority initiatives have been approached with diligence, professionalism and tenacity."*

The inspectors affirmed our belief that the *"The staff know pupils very well and promote their positive self-esteem and total communication"*. We know that communication is a priority for you as parents and carers. It is what our pupils all need to develop, to be as independent as they can be. We also know that building self-esteem and better mental health is essential for so many of our pupils.

You should be proud to hear that the inspectors also found that our *"Pupils cooperate well with each other and are polite and helpful to visitors.... Pupils are taught to respect each other and the new school buildings and they are polite and well mannered...behaviour across the school is calm and purposeful."*

We were very pleased that *"Parents and carers who contacted the inspectors are overwhelmingly supportive of the school. A representative comment was: 'This is a wonderful school where every child is nurtured and cherished'."* One of our core purposes is nurturing our children and supporting our families. Your unwavering support keeps us striving to do our very best for our pupils.

The inspectors found that safeguarding (arrangements) *"are effective, leaders have ensured that pupils feel and are kept safe...There is a strong culture of safeguarding in the school, specifically relating to the safe administration and storage of medication...Pupils trust the adults in the school."*

There are some 'next steps' for the school

"Leaders and those responsible for governance should ensure that:

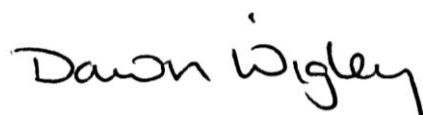
- *governors quickly develop a secure understanding of their roles and responsibilities in order to hold the school leadership team to account more effectively*
- *leaders swiftly set out their plans to improve the quality of the school's self-evaluation and analysis so that progress can be precisely measured, monitored and reported*
- *they develop the role of middle leaders to add capacity to improve the effectiveness of subject implementation*
- *the school's website has all the required specified information for parents and is up to date and that all statutory policies are update and approved."*

If you would like to read the OFSTED letter in more detail, it can be found on the school's website or you can request one from the school office.

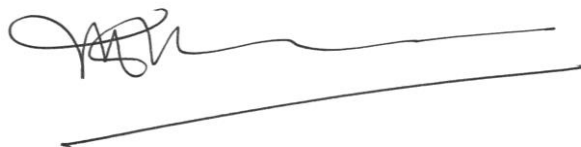
Due to the next steps the inspectors have asked us to work on we know we will have another inspection within the next 12 months. We will be working extremely closely with the governing body, senior leaders, school staff and parents to continue to make the improvements necessary to continue to improve our great school.

We are, as ever, very proud of our pupils because of what they achieve every day and our staff team because of their passion, positivity and constant innovation.

With regards,



Dawn Wigley
Head Teacher



Dr Alex Macdonald
Chair of Governors