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“Children don’t care how much you know, until they know how much you care.”

Monday 17th July 2017

Dear Parents / Carers,

As you are aware, our Ofsted inspection took place on Tuesday 13th and Wednesday 14th June. The report is published today and available to view on the “inspection reports” section of our school website and also the official Ofsted website. Please contact the school office if you require a paper copy.

School webpage:

<http://christchurchschoolfrome.org.uk/about/ofsted-siams-reports>

Ofsted webpage:

<https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report/provider/ELS/123757>

The headline judgment is that the school “requires improvement to be good” and this will be our continuing focus in the coming months. Many of you told the inspectors when they visited that your own experience is that Christ Church has grown and improved over the last few years and, most importantly, that your child(ren) continue to feel happy and safe, and enjoy their learning.

There are plenty of positives within the report which we would like you to know about. Staff and governors are pleased that Ofsted inspectors recognised the following strengths:

- *Parents are very positive about the time children spend in Nursery and in the Reception classes and have great confidence in the care their children receive*
- *The school’s work to engage parents is good*
- *Attainment is rising and governors have high aspirations for pupils’ progress*
- *The teaching of writing is good in KS1 and KS2*
- *The most able pupils from all backgrounds make good progress*
- *Support programmes and progress for pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities are good*
- *The school’s commitment to keeping children safe is exemplary*
- *Behaviour is good and pupils feel safe in school*
- *Bullying is very rare and any concerns are quickly and effectively dealt with*
- *Pupils’ SMSC (spiritual moral social and cultural) development is good and enhanced by the strong Christian ethos of the school*
- *The school is orderly and pupils are polite and friendly*

The Ofsted inspectors noted that Christ Church has a strong Christian ethos, culture and sense of community. They commented on positive, respectful relationships between staff, governors, parents and children, and praised the calm, purposeful atmosphere in the school and nursery. As an inclusive school we have always aimed for every Christ Church child to reach their full potential and we will continue to maintain this focus.

There is a great deal for us to feel proud of. However, we must also take account of the specific areas where the report notes a requirement to improve.

The areas for improvement are clear from the report. The overarching message from the Ofsted inspectors is that, going forward, governors and school leaders should continue with current plans for school improvement because there is nothing wrong with what we want to achieve or the way we want to achieve it. However, inspectors recommend that we hasten the pace of improvement so that rapid and sustained progress is made.

We agree that for **teaching** “to be good or better” we must ensure that children from all backgrounds and starting points make faster progress so that everyone fulfils their academic potential.

We agree that for **early years** “to be good or better” we must ensure that nursery children have the best possible start and that this is followed by a smooth transition into school.

We fully respect and accept the inspectors’ judgements and recommendations. We know we have areas where we have work to do and we look forward to working in partnership with all staff, governors, parents and children as we take the next stage of our journey to secure “good” and then press on to “outstanding”. As we move forward from this inspection these steps will enable us to be a stronger and better school as a result. The destination is still clearly in sight and we fully intend to get there!

The Ofsted inspectors asked us to pass on their thanks to all of the children, parents/carers, staff and governors who made them feel so warmly welcomed. Your kindness, enthusiasm and cooperation was greatly appreciated. Thank you!

Finally, if you have any thoughts, suggestions, worries or concerns please do not hesitate to get in touch. We would love to hear from you now, and look forward to working with you over the coming weeks and months as we make Christ Church the best school it can be for the benefit of every child.

Yours sincerely,



Rupert Kaye
Headteacher



John Price
Chair of Governors



Ali Bowden
Deputy Head



Sarah Daffurn
Assistant Head