



Thursday 9th March 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you may know, we were inspected by Ofsted on 7th February 2017. The inspection was conducted under the new Section 8 Framework and was a short one day visit – the aims were to ensure that Safeguarding continues to be effective and that our school remains good.

I am very pleased to inform you that Buckland Newton CE Primary continues to be 'good'. We were confident that this would be the outcome, as the new framework is extremely rigorous and to move from 'good' to 'outstanding' would appear to be an ever aspirational, yet seemingly insurmountable hurdle! Despite the accolade of being the 5th highest performing primary school in Dorset, in the top 10% of schools in Reading and Writing and the top 20% in Maths nationally, it was not quite enough! The letter we have now received is available on the Ofsted website or through our school website. It is in a very different format to previous inspections.

We are particularly pleased to read that the work of leadership team has been acknowledged:

'You have worked tirelessly to ensure that the school's work is focussed on securing improvement.'

The ongoing whole staff commitment was also recognised:

'The actions of the adults who work in the school fully support the school's motto (vision), Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day.'

'Pupils enjoy their lessons because of the 'attention to needs' that teachers pay them and the level of challenge offered.'

Although the last inspection was in June 2012, the letter contains comments about the two areas identified for improvement at that time. We were asked to ensure that the children had more opportunities for problem-solving in Maths. As a result of a focus on mathematical skills, *'both progress and attainment of pupils have been consistently above the national average'*. At the time of the last inspection, we were redeveloping our Early Years' outdoor area and this is now documented as good quality. During the visit, the inspector was very impressed with the different learning environments and the vibrant displays.

Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day



With reference to the whole school, we were delighted to read:

'You have overseen the development of a caring school that supports challenges and nurtures its learners in a stimulating and thriving environment.'

The inspector spoke to our wonderful children:

'Pupils show great pride in their work.'

'They told me they felt safe at school and valued the support and care the adults gave them.'

He reported that one pupil explained that, *'School is like being at home.'*

I would like to extend my sincerest thanks to all stakeholders involved in Buckland Newton CE VC Primary School – children, staff, parents, governors and all the friends of our wonderful school alike. I am exceptionally proud of all the work that goes on here and with the imminent changes afoot, feel confident that as a school and a community, we will continue to flourish.

Many thanks, as always, for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "N.A. Ralph". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end of the name.

N.A Ralph
Headteacher