



Downside Primary School

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Headteacher: Miss Karen Hooker

25th January 2019

Dear parents,

I am pleased to attach to this letter a copy of the letter I received from Ofsted regarding our most recent inspection in January.

I am pleased to confirm with you that Ofsted agreed with our self-evaluation that Downside is a '**Good**' school.

I have always been really proud when visitors come in to our school – as Downside pupils are a delight to teach and are some of the friendliest, most welcoming children I have worked with. The Inspectors who came to our school, agreed with our judgement and noted, pupils:

- behave very well
- have excellent attitudes to learning
- are friendly
- are welcoming
- are proud of their school

As a team we have all worked really hard to ensure that we are tackling the key areas in our school. The team looked at three key areas:

Reading:

As you are aware, we have been working on reading as a school and as a consequence have seen a rise in the attainment of our pupils and we are now at the National average in this area. The Inspectors felt that our work in this area was having a significant impact both in terms of teaching, learning and the progress children are making.

Higher Attaining pupils:

We have also been working as a team to ensure that our most able pupils achieve to the very best of their ability. The work we have done in this area was acknowledged by Ofsted and the progress in this area is evident. However, there is still more work to be done and this has been given as a 'Next step' for the school.



Attendance:

As a school, we have been working hard to ensure that our attendance figures improve and that persistent absentee figures are kept low. The vast majority of our Persistent absentees are children who have been on term time leave.

Term time leave has a detrimental impact on learning and it is now having a detrimental impact on the school's journey to 'Outstanding'.

This is a 'Next step' for the school – but parents need to understand that this is a target for them, not the school! We will continue to meet with you to advise you of the detrimental impact of the absence and let you know what your child is missing, but I would plead with parents to use the 175 non-school days to take children on holiday!

I hope that when you read the report you are as proud as I am of the progress the school has made. The whole team at Downside work really hard - the Facilities team keep the building looking clean and well-cared for, the Catering team ensure high quality lunches and a positive lunchtime experience, the Office team and Family Workers ensure that parents are looked after and the large team of Senior Leaders, Teachers and Support staff ensure that the children have a love of learning, make good progress and are happy at school.

I want to take this opportunity to thank my team and all the parents for your support over the years.

Yours sincerely,

K.Hooker