

Monday 27 January 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Today you will have received a letter outlining the outcomes of our school's recent Inspection. Most schools have an Ofsted Section 8 'monitoring visit'. As Claygate's National data has shown a decline over the last 3 years, a Section 5 Inspection was deemed necessary and a team (2 HMIs and 2 Ofsted Inspectors) visited us 8th and 9th January to complete a more in depth scrutiny of the school.

The Ofsted team have made the judgement that Claygate School 'Requires Improvement'. Although the inspection was challenging and highlighted areas that need work, we were pleased that Ofsted also recognised some of our considerable strengths and graded us GOOD across three areas. We are delighted that within this judgement 'Behaviour and Attitudes' were graded GOOD; children demonstrate good behaviour and attitudes towards others and enjoy a 'wider range of opportunities'. We have raised expectations, introduced a new behaviour policy and have clear procedures in place including how we log and address issues arising.

'Personal Development' of our children through our strong values, PSHE (and Jigsaw scheme) and of course our Enrichment Programme was also graded GOOD. The report refers to our school providing high-quality support for pupil's personal development, noting that our pupils feel happy and safeguarding is effective. They loved our pets!

This new inspection approach is robust and rigorous, with a focus on all aspects of learning across the whole curriculum, which we fully support. Ofsted now focus on a broader analysis across all subjects, including a deeper dive into foundation subjects; History, PE and Music where again strength was seen. This change in methodology came into effect on 1st September. Ofsted recognised the journey the school has made since Mrs Ali and I joined in 2018 and 'Leadership and Management' was also graded GOOD with Ofsted noting 'Leaders have focused on the most important things first' as well as praising our 'hardworking and dedicated team'. Ofsted also commended improvements across our Special Educational Needs (SEN) provision.

Ofsted recognised that our immediate focus on Mathematics and subsequently reading and writing was appropriate and necessary. However, for our school, this new focus means there are some aspects of our provision which are not yet fully developed, specifically around the updated expectations for the delivery of the foundation curriculum and how subjects are sequenced and linked. As we have had limited time to complete our journey to meet these expectations fully and consistently, we have been given this judgment.

Thank you to all parents who submitted the positive feedback through the Ofsted questionnaire – in particular the vast majority were extremely supportive and recognise changes we have made across the school since we began our journey of improvement in September 2018. Again, the majority of parents would recommend CPS and say their child is happy and feels safe. These comments reflect the strong support parents consistently give our school.

On behalf the Claygate staff team, I would like to reassure you of our commitment to continuous improvement across all aspects of our school to ensure your child has the very best experience and opportunities to reach their full potential. We look forward to working in partnership with you to achieve this goal.

Due to the timing of this report, we will bring Parents' Forum forward to Friday 31st January at drop off, to provide an opportunity for all parents to ask any questions; please forward any questions to your class reps prior to this meeting. A list of questions and responses will then be collated and made available to all parents.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Sandra Cunningham