



Fishburn Primary School

website: www.fishburn.durham.sch.uk



Fishburn Primary School,
East View,
Fishburn,
Stockton on Tees,
TS21 4AU.

01740 620 262

@ fishburn@durhamlearning.net

Headteacher – Miss Gemma Ferguson

Monday, 27 February 2023

Ofsted Inspection Outcome – 10th and 11th January 2023.

Dear Parents and Carers,

Myself and the Governing Body of school have the pleasure of being able to share our final and validated Ofsted report with you all. You are able to access the report on our website and it will be published, in due course, on the Ofsted website too.

As you are aware, in 2019 Ofsted moved our school from a 'Good' judgement to a 'Requires Improvement' judgement. At that time, Ofsted considered our school to be 'Requires Improvement' in all areas. At the time of the last inspection, the school was given a list of over 17 Areas for Improvement which formed the basis of our school improvement plans in the last 3 years. There has been significant work undertaken during this period in order to move school forwards in a positive way and as you know, we have undergone almost a complete transformation in that time as well as living through 2 years of the COVID19 pandemic.

During our inspection in January this year, Ofsted have recognised the hard work and dedication of leaders and the staff team across school and have acknowledged how happy and settled our children are in our school. The children spoke highly of the staff team and the support they receive in their classes, they also shared with inspectors what their school day looks like. They showed the inspectors their books and discussed the trips and activities they had access to, linked to what they had been learning about in their topic lessons. Across the 2-day inspection our children shone. They represented our school in the best way possible, through their eyes and their experiences. They are a credit to you as our parents and carers and a credit to our school.

Recognising the many strengths that now exist at Fishburn, Ofsted have awarded us 2 aspects of 'Good'. One for Personal Development and one for Behaviour and Attitudes, judgements which I am incredibly proud of. This makes very clear to all that school is moving in the right direction. However, we also recognised, even before Ofsted arrived, that our work in moving and improving standards across school was not yet done. Leaders shared with Ofsted our journey but also our future plans, recognising that we have a brand-new staff team in school with many teachers just new to their subject leader roles. This was discussed at length with the inspection team as well as the challenges we face with our curriculum having implemented mixed age range classes. On balance, the inspection team were fair to the context of our school and stated that our school is moving towards a good judgement, but given the significant changes made in the last three years they have said that our overall judgement remains 'Requires Improvement' as we need a little more time to embed some of our newer initiatives. This was not a surprise to Leaders and Governors in our school given the vast amount of work that needed to be undertaken in 2019. The inspection team did not highlight anything in their inspection that we were not already aware of and working towards improving. Positively, you will see in our report that our 'areas for improvement' have **significantly reduced** from 17 to just 3. Leaders in school have already taken onboard the views and judgements made by inspectors and plans are already in place to continue to tackle the last 3 areas for improvement. We are confident that we will obtain a fully 'Good' judgement at our next inspection, a judgement which is more than in our grasp in the next 12 – 18 months.

Whilst the overall result from Ofsted remains unchanged, myself and the Governors of school are pleased that Ofsted more than acknowledged some of the difficulties school has faced in the last 3 years and have commented positively on many aspects of school life bringing about 2 areas now judged as 'Good'. The dedication of the whole team to achieve these good judgements cannot be underestimated.



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I have shared here some of the positive comments made in the report by the inspection team:

- Pupils enjoy school and have a high opinion of the staff that work with them.
- Bullying is rare and is not tolerated.
- Pupils know that adults will listen to them and act if they have any worries or concerns.
- Staff have high expectations of pupil's behaviour... consequently school is a calm and pleasant working environment and pupils enjoy learning with their friends.
- Leaders have planned a curriculum that interests pupils and covers a wide range of subjects.
- The maths curriculum is well sequenced.
- Books are well matched to sounds pupils know.
- Pupils who find reading more difficult are given extra support.
- The arrangements for safeguarding are effective and there is a strong culture of safeguarding across school.

The whole staff team at Fishburn and the Governing Body want to reassure you that we remain as dedicated and as committed as ever to our school community as we continue to move our school forwards together.

I want to thank you all for your continued support of our school and for being an important part of our 'Fishburn Family'.

If you have any questions about the inspection report after reading it then please don't hesitate to get in touch with the school office.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Gemma Ferguson
(Headteacher)
&
Mrs Maureen Watret
(Chair of Governors)