



Deanshanger Primary School
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Friday 6th January 2017

Dear Parent / Carer,

As you know, Deanshanger Primary had an Ofsted Inspection on 24th and 25th November 2016. As with all inspections, it was an intense time for staff and governors, but hopefully not for your children. Your support in providing feedback to the team in a very small timeframe was extremely useful and much appreciated. The final report is attached for your information and will also be available on the school website from Monday 9th January. It will be 'live' on the Ofsted website on Wednesday 11th January <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk>. Please let us know, by phone, email or letter, if you would like a hard copy of the report.

We have a host of achievements to be very proud of in all areas, including data, which is one of the most important factors considered by Ofsted. In KS2 for example, we reached and exceeded the National Standard in all areas except maths at greater depth. Our combined score for reading, writing and maths was 60% where National was 53%. Attainment results have improved substantially in the last 3 years. In KS1 we similarly met and exceeded National Standards except maths, where National was 73% and school was 71%. For maths at greater depth, the National figure was 18% whereas school was 36%. Again, the progress in attainment data has increased each year since 2014.

The team focussed heavily on the progress of groups across KS2 and on this basis, they decided that an overall judgement for the school of 'Requires Improvement' was required. School leaders, including governors, are fully aware that progress for some groups across KS2 is an area for improvement and this is recorded in our School Improvement Plan, but we were still not expecting the grading we received as attainment has continued to improve and exceed national expectations in Early Years, KS1 and KS2 and progress has improved slightly and is now 'average' in writing.

The outcome has been hard for all of us to accept as it doesn't seem to reflect the areas of huge strength and improvement across the school which had been regularly supported, monitored and validated by the Local Authority; a dedicated staff team and governing body have since felt rather disheartened. However, dwelling too much on this isn't constructive, and we have to learn from what has happened and use the information to help us to rapidly move forward with strong team work to 'good'. We will be starting this new year with our usual amount of passion and determination to ensure that your children are provided with the very best all rounded education.

We have lodged an official complaint about elements of the inspection process and the consistency of our judgement compared to other schools with similar data and will receive the outcome of this at the end of the month; this information will be shared with you.

As soon as the team left, we started to work on an Action Plan which will be supported by the Local Authority and Andrea Curtis – National Leader of Education, from Nicholas Hawksmoor Primary, Towcester. Our Action Plan will also be posted on the school website so that you are fully aware of how we are addressing the areas outlined. At some point in the near future we will have a monitoring inspection from an Ofsted HMI (not the same person as before) to look at the progress we have made against it. A second inspection will then take place within 24 months. We look forward to the opportunity to sharing our commitment to the areas identified and indeed, whole school improvement, as always.

The following link will provide access to the Ofsted Section 8 Handbook. Pages 23-30 will specifically outline the process of moderation and inspection from this point on.

www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/547227/School_inspection_handbook-section_8.pdf

I would like to reassure you that the plethora of special things that go on in our school and which broaden and enhance the learning experience will continue as before, and we will work hard to refine the things we need to do to be even better. These include a range of ongoing interventions for individual/groups of children to support attainment and progress alongside the broad range of activities, beyond the curriculum, which are evolving strongly. The governing body will be reviewing various areas of the constitution and processes, and putting in place their action plan to support DPS and increase the effectiveness of their role.

If you have any concerns at all about your child, or would like to discuss the report with me in more detail, please make an appointment through the school office or send an email; as always, open and honest communication is appreciated. Our Chair of Governors, Rev Stephanie Hibberd and Vice Chair, Mrs Sue Forman are also happy to meet with anyone that who would like to know more. They are contactable on the email address below.

In addition to our governors, we are considering forming a parent group to support and drive school improvement. If you would like to consider being part of this group helping to make positive improvements, please make contact; your input would be highly appreciated.

With kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rachel". The letters are cursive and fluid, with a large 'R' and 'h'.

Rachel Rice, Head teacher head@deanshanger.northants-ecl.gov.uk

Stephanie Hibberd, Chair of Governors and Sue Forman, Vice Chair of Governors deanshangergov@gmail.com