



**Succeeding together - 'fostering a love of learning, within a nurturing Christian community, to bring out 'the best in everyone'**

Monday 11th March, 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you know, our school was inspected by Ofsted on 31st January and 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024. We are thrilled with the feedback, and it is with great pleasure that we can now inform you that we remain a good school.

Since our last Ofsted, the inspection framework has changed significantly and over the past 2 years, we have been working incredibly hard behind the scenes to bring the school in line with the current expectation of a 'good' school. I am proud to say that all our hard work is paying off; the school is a safer environment with a robust program of learning designed to challenge and engage our children. The full report is available on our [school website](#) and I would like to draw your attention to the following positive points:

**Safeguarding** - Our safeguarding has been judged to be effective. We are absolutely thrilled that our safeguarding systems and procedures have been deemed as rigorous. This is the first time our safeguarding procedures have been inspected under the demanding new framework and I am incredibly proud of all the hard work that has made this possible. We care deeply that we provide a safe school environment for all the children and that the school has a culture of safeguarding embedded in all our practices.

**Curriculum** - Our curriculum is 'ambitious'; particularly in English and Maths, with the inspector noting that our classrooms are 'purposeful environments for learning'. It was recognised that in some areas the breadth of the curriculum could be tweaked and edited to allow for deepening knowledge; we have already begun to implement changes to fine tune these areas.

**Behaviour** - The children have a clear understanding of the behaviours that are expected of them in school and of the consequences of poor decision making. While the inspector was here, she acknowledged the children's good behaviour, positive attitudes towards learning and how well they embrace our school values. The clear communication of the school's behaviour expectations and values are having a positive impact.

**Reading** – 'There is a strong culture of reading at the school' and we are developing a love of reading in our pupils. Our early years classes are getting a fantastic start with a well delivered reading program. We can do more to help those struggling with their reading and we are looking at new initiatives to support those readers.

**Personal development**- 'Leaders go out of their way to provide for pupils' all-round development...' It has been recognised that we give children many opportunities to take on responsibility and leadership roles; they thrive with enrichment experiences and it helps our children connect to the wider community.

Where the school needs to do more work is entirely expected. The report comments on areas for improvement which are constructive and already interwoven into our plans for the future. We see opportunities for growth in these areas and look forward to your support in our improvements.

**Attendance** - As you will know we are at the beginning stages of changes to our school's approach to attendance and this was reflected in the inspector's comments. We have already identified the need to improve attendance which we look forward to working with you all closely on. In recent weeks, we have designated an Attendance Lead and changed how we respond to persistent absence in school. This brings us more in line with the Department of Education's approach, but there is still much more work to do. All schools across the country are being asked to tighten their attendance procedures, so please expect to be asked for evidence of prolonged illness or medical appointments and for more follow up from the Buckinghamshire County Attendance Team.

**SEND** - Predominantly from our parent feedback, the inspector was able to identify areas for improvement in our SEND provision. We are eager and keen to meet the challenges ahead; the demands on our SEND provision have increased in recent years and we know that we as a school need to do more. In consultation with the Buckinghamshire Council support team, we are creating an action plan. We want you to know we have heard your feedback and our attention is focused on making improvements to our SEND provision.

More than once the report identifies that the children are happy in school and they feel welcomed and cared for; both of which lies at the heart of everything we do. It is worth recognising how positive the report is, how it demonstrates the hard work and commitment of the team here at Marsh Gibbon and how the children positively embrace their learning.

We are proud of our children, our teaching and support staff and our parents and thank everyone for the role they play in helping us 'succeed together'. We look forward to continuing on our journey to 'bring out the best in everyone'.

Should you have any queries or concerns, please contact the school office.  
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