



# Banks Lane Junior School

'Believe to Achieve'

22<sup>nd</sup> January 2019

Dear Parents & Carers

In line with Stockport's School Effectiveness protocol, schools who are judged by Ofsted to be Requires Improvement receive a Local Authority review within 12 months, therefore four Senior School Improvement Advisors from the Local Authority visited school for the day on 28<sup>th</sup> November.

The focus of the review was:

- To check on the progress the school has made on Ofsted's areas for improvement (AFIs). Additionally, to check the school's readiness for a possible HMI monitoring visit and its next full section 5 Ofsted inspection (Spring term 2020);
- To evaluate the overall quality of Leadership and Management, Teaching Learning and Assessment and current outcomes;
- To gain the views of pupils;
- To check on the effectiveness of Safeguarding.

All classes were observed by an adviser. Pupils' books were examined in the classrooms as part of lesson observations. Also, a book scrutiny for English, Mathematics and the wider curriculum was undertaken by advisers in addition to the classroom observations. Advisors met with the pupils and checked their understanding of a range of issues including challenge in their learning and school behaviour.

Advisors also met with leaders responsible for:

- Safeguarding and attendance;
- Governance;
- Coordination of SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability);
- The development of the whole school curriculum, Mathematics and English;
- Assessment and the overview of current pupil outcomes;
- The use and impact of Pupil Premium.

Although the day was not an official Ofsted visit - it certainly felt like one! All staff had been working hard to prepare for the day and wanted to show the advisors how proud we are of our school.

We received the official Review Report when we returned after the Christmas break. As the report is not written for parents (as an Ofsted report would be), but for leaders of the school, we are unable to share the entire document with you.

We would like to start by stating that the report is very positive. We are very pleased with the content and it certainly shows the significant work that all members of staff and the Governing Board have done to ensure that we are re-inspected as a 'Good' school next year. Throughout this period the leaders of the school have endeavoured to not lose sight of our educational philosophy and vision which has driven you as parents and carers to choose our school for your children.

The really important aspects of our curriculum have remained; residential visits, special event days and an exciting involving curriculum. The most important change that we have made is the content of the children's

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SCHOOL MEMBER





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books and how we record our exciting curriculum. Our books now look amazing! They were heavily praised during the review day.

It is difficult to pick out all the most pertinent points of the review for all parents, so we have included a brief selection of positive comments reported;

- *The Chair of Governors and the Headteacher have remodelled, re-evaluated and re-directed the governing body;*
- *Since the inspection the leadership of the school, including governance has gained a renewed passion to drive improvements. As one adviser stated, the head and deputy headteacher are 'confident and fluent' at telling and explaining their journey of improvement and 'it is clear that improvements have been made through the use of teams, collaboration and dissemination';*
- *The impact of the leaders' passion and drive is tangible - noticeable in the impact that they are having on pupils' validated data, the quality of pupils' presentation and standard of work in the pupils' books. In addition the leaders' ability to talk about their impact is good;*
- *Teaching and learning in the school has several strengths. These include the use of questioning, models for learning and feedback on pupils learning;*
- *The whole school curriculum is being developed well by leaders;*
- *All pupils were positive about the school. The pupils talked about the improvements that have been made to their mathematics and reading sessions. They felt safe and were able to discuss what they would do if they had a problem.*

The advisors concluded:

- *The head and deputy headteacher have galvanised the staff well to improve the school;*
- *Year group leaders are instrumental in raising standards;*
- *The governors know the school well; The 'Governors' strategic plan' clearly shows how the governors will hold leaders to account and the part they will play in overseeing improvements to teaching and learning;*
- *Leaders are having a positive impact on addressing all Ofsted's areas for improvement;*
- *Pupils' books are neater and handwriting is much improved throughout the school;*
- *New systems for teaching reading and mathematics help the learning to be structured and organised.*

The Governing Board and staff are extremely pleased with the result of the review and will continue to focus on the improvements identified. We would like to thank governors, staff, parents and, of course, the pupils for their continued support and hard work. We are now one year on from our last inspection - our school has the highest number of pupils in many years and staff morale is positive. We look forward to completing another successful year and showing Ofsted that we are a 'GOOD' school when they return next year.

As always we would like to welcome parents/carers to contact us if they have any questions, concerns or comments to make regarding information in this letter.

Kind regards

  
Mr E Milner  
Headteacher

  
Mrs J Graham  
Chair of Governors

Headteacher - Mr. E. Milner

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