



Head teacher: Mrs Annette Blewett

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Letter for parents about our OFSTED inspection

Ofsted Inspection – 3rd and 4th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our Inspection was undertaken just before the closure of schools in March due to the Corona Virus concerns and as a result the report findings were not published. This was because Ofsted felt that with parents not bringing their children to school each day during the closure, it would be difficult for the school to communicate their response to the report effectively. However, Ofsted have now taken the decision to publish our report. **I was informed by a Senior Ofsted Inspector on Friday 19th June that the report will be live on the Ofsted website on Wednesday 24th June 2020.** I apologise in advance for the challenges the leadership of the school face in terms of communicating our response to you. I have produced a document which expands on the positives for the school and the areas we need to improve further to help with this and attach it for you.

We were inspected over two days under the new Ofsted Education Inspection Framework (EIF), which came into force on 1st September 2019. Under the new EIF, the same four grades can be awarded as under the previous inspection; ***Outstanding, Good, Requires Improvement or Special Measures.***

Under the previous framework in November 2017 we were judged as ***'Requires Improvement'***. The new framework for inspection is significantly different to the previous inspection and inspectors now undertake **deep dives** into specific areas. Ofsted rated us as ***'Requires Improvement'*** at our March 2020 inspection. We were disappointed with this judgement because the school has made significant improvements and excellent progress in all areas since the 2017 inspection.

The school must evidence that the quality of teaching and learning for **phonics, reading, writing and maths** are **all** at what an inspector judges to be a **good** standard for the grading of **'Good'** to be awarded. We did meet these for **phonics, reading and maths**, but in the view of inspectors we did not for writing. As a result our overall judgement had to be ***'Requires Improvement'***.

We were, and remain, grateful to the inspection team for the time they took to drill down and identify areas we still need to improve on, particularly now that the bar for inspection and outcomes has increased significantly from that previously undertaken. We have looked very carefully at our assessment systems and procedures to refine these even further to meet the expectations. We know our children make excellent progress over their time in our school. We know that teachers secure high quality outcomes for the children. It is essential to recognise that our children arrive at the age of 3 or 4 and leave us at the age of 7. We must continue to develop their social and emotional needs.

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Writing is important, and I would never ever say otherwise, but we must also ensure we meet the essential early developmental needs of our children. Achieving both to the good standard required remains our core mission.

The attached document called 'Head Teacher Response to the Ofsted Inspection Report' sets out for you what was seen or judged as **Good** when inspected and what was seen as requiring improvement. This extensive document has been written to support parents' understanding of each section of the report. As always, I would welcome your comments and would be happy to discuss anything with you so please do get in touch via the school office.

Yours sincerely

Annette Blewett

Head Teacher

A response from The Governing Body at Spring Meadow

Anyone who has spent time at Spring Meadow knows it is a brilliant school that achieves amazing things for its pupils and its community. As you will see within the report, Ofsted are highly complimentary, noting that Spring Meadow is a safe and nurturing school where pupils are kind to each other, have positive attitudes towards their learning and are considerate of each others' needs. The entire staff works tirelessly to ensure that all the children engage positively with teaching and learning, and to promote the school's values of kindness, bravery and curiosity.

We were very disappointed with our outcome, as the progress made by the school since the last inspection is incredible. We continue to be very proud of the staff and the children for the way that they conducted themselves throughout the Inspection visit. We feel it is very important for our community to fully understand how the judgements were reached and how the school plans to address areas of teaching and learning that require improvement.

As a Governing Body, our role is to provide strategic leadership for the school, which includes working closely with the headteacher to ensure the best possible educational experiences for all children, particularly in these most challenging of current circumstances and well into the future. The school not only needs to respond to the result of our Ofsted inspection, but the longer term impact of the global pandemic.

Governors have met virtually on a number of occasions during the school closure. The school leadership team is eager and keen to meet the challenges ahead and a draft Improvement Plan is now in place. We are confident that addressing the areas for improvements identified will enable the school to continue to work towards achieving good in all aspects at the next inspection.

We are immensely proud of the staff and the children at Spring Meadow. We think it is a real credit to Mrs Blewett and her team that they are focusing on the positives and continuing to work towards even greater school improvement. We sincerely hope you are able to do all you can to support her and the staff. Should you wish to discuss this with me, please don't hesitate to get in contact with me through the school office: office@springmeadow.cambs.sch.uk

Yours sincerely,

Dawn Page: Chair of Governors

For and on behalf of the whole Governing Body

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