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Headteacher Lynn Harrison

25.04.17

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school. I hope that everyone had a relaxing and enjoyable Easter break.

As you are aware we had a recent Ofsted Inspection on the 14th March. This inspection was a 'short inspection'. Under the current system, schools judged Good or Outstanding at their last inspection are now subject to a section 8 inspection. This inspection usually lasts one day assuming that the 'Key Lines of Enquiry' (improvements, data, safeguarding, website, pupil achievement etc) prove effective and in line with a previous judgement. If the key lines of enquiry cannot be met during the first day, then the inspector has to call a full inspection within 48 hours.

Fortunately, we had a one-day inspection and I have attached the summary report. This report is in a different format to previous reports as it focusses primarily on the Key lines of Enquiry and not necessarily on the 'wider whole school life'. That said, we were pleased that it was recognised that;

'You and the governors have a secure understanding of the strengths of the school and areas that need to be improved,'

'Irthington is chosen by local families and those who live further afield because of the ethos and welcome that the school offers. Governors share your clear ambition for pupils'

'Parents value the friendly, nurturing and welcoming feel of the school. They also feel that staff are very approachable and that concerns will be dealt with quickly. Pupils describe their teachers as being kind and helpful. They enjoy the activities they have access to and especially value the friends they make. They said that friends help each other 'make up' when there is any 'falling out'. '

'You ensure that all safeguarding arrangements are fit for purpose. The school's records are detailed and of high quality. As the lead for safeguarding, you show due diligence of care for pupils and their families.'

'Pupils told me that they feel confident that all pupils from different backgrounds, cultures or beliefs would be accepted by their peers. Pupils and parents say that bullying does not happen at this school but should it occur, they are confident staff would deal with it quickly'

'I was impressed that pupils of different ages throughout the school could explain to me what features their teachers would expect them to include in their writing to make it as good as possible, for instance when choosing vocabulary to make traditional tales interesting'.

We are very pleased to be judged 'Good', once again and will begin work to address the areas for improvement identified in the report this term.

Yours sincerely,

Lynn Harrison

