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December 6th, 2022

Dear Parents,

We are delighted with the result of our OFSTED inspection which once again judges the school as good. This is down to the hard work of children, parents, teachers and teaching assistants, support staff and governors all working together 'to aim high and make a difference.'

HMI Dr Elaine Mawson, met with Miss Dixon and I and then governors at the end of the inspection to share her findings. She was most complimentary about the school, particularly: the culture of the school, the curriculum, the teaching and the support for our children and she said more than once, "the school **lives** it's motto to aim high and make a difference."

The inspector was in school over two days and as usual the children were a credit to their school and their parents. Thanks go to staff and leaders at all levels, including governors who work relentlessly to support constant school improvement. Like visiting teachers and prospective parents, the inspector noted the calm, purposeful and friendly atmosphere in school. In determining our Next Step, the inspector said that she wanted to ensure it expressed confidence in the school's curriculum, teaching and plans for development.

Additional points identified in the feedback but not in the letter to parents:

- Clear progress evident in children's work.
- Children talked confidently and with a secure knowledge of key learning.
- Good delivery of learning with lots of opportunities for the development of learning.
- Teachers had good subject knowledge, presented things in different ways & varied tasks.
- Adult support was well used. Children read regularly and 'love' reading.
- Quality resources and a wide range of enrichment opportunities.
- The visits and visitors deepen children's learning.
- Strong subject leadership, enthusiastic & forward thinking; a clear ambitious approach.
- Well thought-out sequences of learning.
- The curriculum is accessible for all, including SEND and 'disadvantaged'.
- Appropriate and effective support for SEND children.
- Exemplary support from the pastoral team, teachers and leaders, recognised by parents.
- Careful tracking to ensure safeguarding.
- A positive culture of behaviour which matches what the school sets out to achieve.
- Children shared that school is not 'super strict' but 'you definitely know the boundaries'.
- Children recognised that staff were fair; not always doing the same for everyone, but *fair*, and over time they saw this having good effect.
- Comprehensive information on the school website.

Great Wood is working well because staff, governors and parents work *together* for the benefit of the children; thank you for your continued support. The OFSTED inspection letter will be added to our website and will become a public document in 8 working days.

Life and school improvement carries on. Keep up-to-date through Parent Pay messages, Facebook and Newsletters and keep being the great parents who do what is needed to support your children. All are welcome to get tickets for Reception's 'What a Star' performance and Year 2's 'Lights, Camel, Action!'

Warm regards, John Ross