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Dear Parents and Carers,

Report from Ofsted Inspection of Elmlea Junior School – March 2015

On behalf of the school and governors, I am delighted to send you the Ofsted School Report following their inspection earlier this month. The wonderful news is that the school has been judged to be 'Outstanding' under **all** the categories - Leadership and Management, Behaviour and Safety of Pupils, Quality of Teaching and Achievement of Pupils. The overall judgement therefore is '**Outstanding.**'

I think I can speak for many of us when I say that we all know the school is a very special place, but it is especially encouraging to have it confirmed again 'officially' – particularly when the standards applied by Ofsted seem to become more challenging each year!

There are so many fantastic comments in this report that I am struggling to keep this letter short. I am sure you will all enjoy reading it and sharing it with your children (who made such an impression on the Ofsted Inspectors!). Some highlights are:

1. Due to the excellent teaching, careful tracking of progress and strong emphasis on literacy and numeracy through years 3 to 6, the pupils attain standards that are exceptionally high
2. Pupils make excellent progress in reading, writing and mathematics and leave the school very well prepared for the next stage of their education
3. The school has inspirational leaders who are relentless in their pursuit of excellence
4. Parents and staff are overwhelmingly supportive of the school and how it is managed
5. The behaviour of the pupils is outstanding – with pupils talking enthusiastically about their learning and taking great pride in their work
6. The school's work to keep the pupils safe and secure is outstanding

I could go on...

Even with an 'Outstanding' finding, Ofsted are always required to identify an area for improvement. They identified that some pupils do not always follow up the excellent marking and feedback from their teachers. As a result, the school has already put in place steps to ensure that all pupils are given the time to read their teachers' comments and make the necessary changes to improve their work.

Having been (a small) part of the inspection process, I can report that the team of inspectors were extremely rigorous in their assessment of the school. Their judgements were not only formed on how they found the school over their two day visit, but also reflect the tremendous work put in by all staff and governors over the last seven years since the previous Ofsted inspection. The school never stops trying to improve and I know this will continue. Thank you to Clare and all her team as this judgement from Ofsted would not have been possible without their commitment.

Thank you again to the pupils who were total stars during the inspection and took it all in their stride. Thank you to all the parents and carers who are always so supportive of the school, especially to those 173 parents who took the time to complete the Parent View survey which gave an overwhelming 'thumbs up' for the school and made such an impression on Ofsted. It is a key strength of our school that it works so well in partnership with the parents and carers of our pupils.

Whilst it is already back to 'business as usual' at school, we should all take time to stop and reflect on this wonderful report and what it means for the children who are lucky enough to pass through the Elmlea Junior School gates.

Kind regards

Anne-Marie Boyle
Chair of Governors

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