



Heads' *update*

KEEPING YOU INFORMED FROM
MR SPRINGETT-MCHUGH AND MISS KAUR

www.southendjunior.com

@SouthEndJrSch

Dear parents and carers

I am delighted to share the Ofsted letter which summarises our recent inspection. We are very pleased that the inspector agreed that we continue to be a good school. The inspection focussed on areas to improve from the previous inspection, current education provision, leadership and management, safeguarding, behaviour and welfare.

In all of these areas the quality of provision was highly praised. We were particularly pleased that some of our key successes were specifically highlighted.

Our Children:

Our school is full of amazing children and I love the passion and pride they have in their school. Miss Kaur and I were overwhelmed in the way they showed their school off as we went around with the inspector.

'Pupils respect the schools values, such as talent, responsibility, pride, democracy and respect. They strive to become a school VIP...' Ofsted Nov 2017

'They value the learning environments...' Ofsted Nov 2017

'During my visit, pupils were polite and very well mannered. They spoke confidently with visitors and opened doors for others.' Ofsted Nov 2017

'Pupils' workbooks show pupils present their work neatly and there is a consistent approach to the development of handwriting.' Ofsted Nov 2017

Well done kids - you did yourselves and your school proud! Great South Enders!

Our Staff Team:

Our school is only as good as the staff in it and this was extremely evident during the inspection. ***'Staff are proud to be part of the school. They work well as a team and support each other. They say they are also well supported by leaders. This helps them to try new ideas to improve pupils' learning.'*** Ofsted Nov 2017.

'Staff feel leaders take care to listen to what the pupils are telling them about their learning. Leaders use this regular feedback from pupils to develop the curriculum and opportunities for pupils across the school.' Ofsted Nov 2017

This is a true recognition of every adult who works in our school and makes it the very special place it is for children to achieve their very best. A really big thank you to every single member of the South End Team!

Academic Outcomes - especially in maths.

As we have shared over the past few years, the expectations in the curriculum have increased considerably. However, particularly in Maths, SEJ have shone tremendously well! Our results in maths are well above national and show excellent progress from their starting points in Key Stage One.

'You reviewed the curriculum to discover the gaps in pupils' understanding and used this information to fill these gaps. As a result of this programme of development, your pupils achieved well above the national average in the 2017 Year 6 national tests in mathematics.' Ofsted Nov 2017

In both reading and writing, we are again above national average and doing really well. These are our focus areas which we had already planned to address before Ofsted. The inspector agreed with our judgements and we continue to build on new initiatives, such as Accelerated Reader and Chapters, to continue the excellent work going on in these areas. As a school, we are delighted that the last two years of results under the new curriculum have been extremely positive and some of the best results for us as a school.

Safeguarding:

It is an absolute for any parent to feel confident that their child is safe at school. You can be confident this is without doubt our utmost priority.

'You have made sure your staff are fully trained and aware of their duty to safeguard pupils.' Ofsted Nov 2017

Behaviour and Welfare

We have always been proud of our values based ethos and children every day show this in everything they do. It is always a pleasure walking around our school as this is evident in every room you enter or corner you turn. We are delighted this was recognised by our inspector.

'Pupils' behaviour is exemplary. In lessons, pupils demonstrate resilience and determination'

'Pupils respect the schools values, such as talent, responsibility, pride, democracy and respect.' Ofsted Nov 2017

Everyone knows 'The Den' and this is a real go to space in our school for many reasons but particularly for any child who needs a little more care or nurture during difficult times. Once again, this shone as a real strength and children spoke very favourably of having The Den as a place to visit.

'They are particularly proud of 'the den' where they know they can go if they have any worries, and someone will help them.'

'Nurture support is in place for pupils who require extra support, including bereavement, developing self-esteem or family support.' Ofsted Nov 2017

Learning Environment

There is no arguing our school environment is unique! However, it was great that the inspector witnessed how it impacts on learning.

'Following the last inspection, you were asked to develop pupils' opportunities to find out things for themselves. You and your staff have worked hard to provide your pupils with environments that meet the needs of all your pupils. Areas around the school are planned purposefully to provide effective learning spaces.' Ofsted Nov 2017

'The vibrant and stimulating classrooms displays and dedicated areas are not just for show. They are designed carefully to provide pupils with learning opportunities that they may not encounter elsewhere, such as the varied settings of the beach, the train carriage or the lounge areas. These are designed to provide pupils with different stimulus to encourage them to read.' Ofsted Nov 2017

'They value the learning environments and understand that leaders have provided them with different spaces to allow them to research and to work in a space that suits them.' Ofsted Nov 2017

Leadership

I am personally pleased that our inspection took place before I left my position as Headteacher in a few weeks time and that it confirmed what a great school we have. However, I was particularly pleased that it validates my judgement that the school has the capacity to continue doing great things and upholding the standards we have set, long after my leaving. It is very clear in the Ofsted letter that all leaders in the school know exactly where we are, where we are going and what we need to focus on. I am sure this will again further reassure the direction for the school after the forthcoming changes in leadership.

'The leadership team has maintained the good quality of education in the school since the last inspection. You have a clear understanding of the school's strengths and areas for improvement. The actions you, the associate headteacher and other leaders have taken to move the school forward have been successful.' Ofsted 2017

'You and your leaders are passionate about providing your pupils with the best possible opportunities. You are clear about your vision and values and these are evident throughout the school.' Ofsted Nov 2017

'The governing body makes a good contribution to the school's leadership. Governors are committed to the school and are passionate about meeting the needs of pupils.' Ofsted Nov 2017

You - our parents and carers

We were all so overwhelmed with the extremely positive feedback verbally, online and through email. You really spoke highly of our school and shared your passions and pride to be able to send your child to SEJ; thank you!

'Parents are very positive about the school. Almost every parent who responded to the online survey, Parent View, or who spoke with me during the inspection, believes that the school is well led. They feel that staff listen to them and act upon any concerns they may have. Several parents commented that you and other staff work hard to identify pupils' individual talents and do what you can to nurture these.' Ofsted 2017

In summary, we have a happy, safe and high achieving school where every adult and child does their bit to make it extra special! I have been honoured to lead such an amazing establishment and I am pleased that this report confirms everything we all know. This has been the perfect end to my time as Headteacher and the perfect platform for Miss Kaur and the team to take it on to new heights!

Thank you and well done everyone! South Enders at their best!

Kind regards



Mr N Springett- McHugh

Executive Headteacher