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**National Support School**  
designated by



National College for  
Teaching & Leadership

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Dear Parents and Carers

Please find attached a copy of our recent Ofsted Report. We had a section 8 Ofsted visit which is not a graded visit. We continue to be an outstanding school.

The report clearly highlights the many strengths that the school has including supporting positive behaviour, expectations for pupils, curriculum opportunities, pupil achievement, personal development, staff well-being and safeguarding.

There are two areas that Ofsted have highlighted as areas to develop.

1) The teaching of a government approved systematic phonics programme to support the development of reading.

Due to the very nature of our school and children, we recognise that all children are individuals and learn differently and that pupils require a range of approaches to develop their reading skills. The school follows the latest robust evidence for reading, which involves a balanced approach. This enables pupils to experience real texts, read for meaning and learn to read using whole word and/or phonetic based reading materials. Pupils are given opportunities to learn to read using visual, auditory, kinaesthetic, and tactile learning experiences. In line with our whole school reading policy, the school has chosen not to only follow a directed systematic approach to the teaching of phonics, but to utilise a range of strategies and teaching to support and develop pupils reading. The school will over the next year, consider and implement as appropriate for our pupils, a government directed phonics programme including appropriate training to enhance and compliment the excellent practice already in place. Further details and information will be shared with parents/carers in the Autumn Term. Attached with this letter are our reading jigsaws which highlight and demonstrate the school's current approach to reading.

2) To further develop and implement the careers programme and provide opportunities for pupils to learn about the workplace and the skills that are valued in the workplace.

Due to the pandemic, pupils have not had the opportunity to access formal work experience or visit a range of workplaces over the last two years. This is part of our development plan and an area that we have reviewed. Indeed our current Year 11's will be accessing a range of workplace activities at the end of June/ beginning of July.

The school will receive a further Section 5 inspection within the next two years where the development points above will be a focus.

As Headteacher, I am incredibly proud of our school and the work that we do to enable all our children to be the best they can be. I would like to formally thank the staff, governors, children, parents and carers for their continued support in making this school a very special place.

Yours sincerely

**Helen Ball**