



NORTHUMBERLAND
COUNTY COUNCIL

***TRITLINGTON CHURCH OF ENGLAND
AIDED FIRST SCHOOL***

TRITLINGTON, MORPETH, NORTHUMBERLAND NE61 3DU

☎ - 01670 787383

FAX - 01670 783108



Headteacher - Mrs C. H. Hughes B.A. (Hons)



14th February 2017

Dear Parent / Carer

Ofsted Inspection

We are writing to let you know that the report is now available following the inspection of 24th and 25th January 2017 and can be viewed on our website from Thursday 16th February. <http://www.tritlington.firstschool.org.uk>

We wanted to write personally to explain parts of the report to you, to let you know what is already happening and what happens next.

Following the recent Ofsted inspection, we have been graded as 'requires improvement' (formerly known as 'satisfactory').

Ofsted recognised that the school has many strengths;

- The headteacher understands the challenges facing the school.
- Pupil premium funding is used well to enable eligible pupils to catch-up.
- Pupils are polite, courteous and show great care and warmth towards their friends.
- They understand right from wrong and behave well.
- Pupils develop into confident, happy and respectful individuals because the school keeps a keen eye on their personal development and welfare.
- Pupils are safe and happy.
- Parents are highly positive about the care their children receive in this 'family-friendly' school.
- Pupils are ready and willing to learn. They show keen attitudes to learning, listening attentively to their teachers and applying themselves diligently to the tasks they have been given.

We are disappointed that the school has been graded as 'requires improvement' and we shall summarise the reasons for this. The inspection team recognised the difficult changes our school has experienced over the last 3 years: with different heads and chairs of governors resulting in inconsistent improvement and drive during which time a new curriculum and Inspection framework were implemented. The inspection team was clear about the specific aspects of school that need to be improved, and that the school has the ability to quickly improve these areas. This is also the strongly held belief of the Governing Body, Local Authority, the Diocese and of all the staff at the school.

There are two key reasons why our school has been graded 'requires improvement':

- Improve the quality of teaching so that pupils make consistently strong progress in their learning and a greater proportion reach above what is expected for their age
- Strengthen the impact of leaders, including governors, on the rate of school improvement

Ofsted feel that in these areas more urgency is required in order to achieve the results we know we are capable of, and therefore gave the judgement of 'requires improvement' to ensure even faster improvement.

What are we already doing?

Whilst in school, the Inspector commented on the “green shoots of improvement”, but that these needed to have time for more impact to be evidenced. Through our School Development Plan for 2016-2017, we had already identified and started work on many of the recommendations that Ofsted have highlighted to us; these include:

- Setting up a governor monitoring visit programme so that all governors are highly ambitious for our school and so challenge and support the improvements required effectively. We will ensure this is more forensic and challenging and will lead to prompt and effective actions. This will be supported by a Full Governing Body Review/Audit which is completed by external advisers
- Creating an effective monitoring cycle across school to evaluate our provision. We will review this system to ensure it is more focussed.
- To promote quality writing, with good presentation, increasingly accurate spelling and effective use of grammar we have introduced Talk for Writing in class 2 and Read, Write, Inc in class 1: the impact of these will be monitored and evaluated termly.
- Ensuring children take pride in their own achievements and their own work we have already invested in a handwriting scheme and celebrate improvements in handwriting through certificates in Sharing assembly, Taking pride booklets and Parents Sharing books sessions.
- In Early years due to the increase in our numbers we are now using 2 classrooms. We have appointed a new teacher to work permanently with Nursery in order for them to have stability and enjoy their learning. With the new teacher, we will be analysing current provision for play and setting up systems to enable the children to be more focussed in their play.
- We have introduced Tapestry to enable increasingly accurate assessments of the children’s learning and development, so that activities and experiences meet their needs and improves their outcomes. We have invited the Local Authority Early Years Team to audit our provision for all and provide us with relevant training.

What happens next?

A school that has been judged as ‘requires improvement’ will be subject to monitoring by Ofsted, although it is **not in a formal category of concern**. The school will normally have a full Ofsted re-inspection within a period of two years and we are confident that we will have achieved all of the recommendations in that time. We shall keep you informed of our progress and will ask for your views as part of the evaluation of our work.

Attached to this letter are a list of Questions and Answers that you may have as a result of reading the Ofsted Report.

The governing body and the staff of Tritlington first School recognise and appreciate the support that parents / carers give to the school and it is imperative that we work in partnership to achieve the recognition of ‘good’ and ‘outstanding’ that our school aspires to become. We will be hosting a Parents Focus Group on Thursday 16th February at 2.45pm to discuss any queries you have regarding the report. Please do not hesitate to contact either of us with any queries you may have.

Yours sincerely

Lynsey Crofts, (Chair of Governors) Helen Hughes (Head Teacher)

e-mail address: - admin@tritlington.northumberland.sch.uk Web-site: - tritlington.firstschool.org.uk



REPLY SLIP

OFSTED REPORT

14.02.2017

Name of child:.....

I would like a paper copy of the Ofsted Report send home with my child.

Signed:.....Dated:.....

PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME:.....