Mandeville Primary School

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24th April 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Ofsted Inspection 2023

We are pleased to be able to share with you the Ofsted Report following the inspection of Mandeville Primary School on 21st and 22nd February.

As you will see, the report highlights many strengths and positives of which we are extremely proud, including:

- Pupils at Mandeville are confident, respectful and resilient.
- Children are happy in a warm and supportive environment.
- Staff have high expectations of all pupils, including those with special educational needs/disabilities.
- Phonics and reading is a particular strength with children demonstrating a fundamental love of books and becoming proficient and fluent readers.
- Provision for pupils with special educational needs/disabilities is highly effective.
- Children's personal development is impressive, including the range of extra-curricular opportunities.
- Pupils play an active role in the school and wider community.
- Governors offer a high level of challenge and support.
- Safeguarding procedures go above and beyond statutory requirements.

The final feedback session led by the inspectors, and attended by senior leaders and Rachel Kirk (HFL Education Improvement Partner), also included the following comments, which were not included in the final report but we wished to make you aware of:

- Mandeville's curriculum is ambitious, progressive and sequential.
- The curriculum in the Early Years is flexible and responsive to pupils' needs.
- Mathematics is implemented well throughout the school with a strong focus on mathematical language/vocabulary.
- The spiritual, moral, social and cultural provision is very effective.
- Pupils have a good understanding of protected characteristics.
- Children are happy, well-cared for, confident and polite.
- Senior leaders implement a meticulous and well-planned approach to school improvement.

Every inspection results in areas that are identified for improvement and at Mandeville we received two. The first of which we had already been working on within this year's School Improvement Plan and will continue to do in 2023/2024. The second is currently being discussed further by senior leaders and Rachel Kirk (HFL Education Improvement Partner), as our current teaching practices evidence the high level of progress and attainment made by pupils throughout the school over a sustained period of time.

As we are sure you are aware, there has been much in the media recently regarding the Ofsted inspection process following the tragic death of Ruth Perry, the Headteacher who took her own life following an inspection in January. Accountability is paramount, as children are at the centre of everything we do. However, what has become clear is that there are significant flaws in the inspection process, which we have recently experienced first-hand.

We hope, moving forward, that there is a change in the culture of accountability. The inspection process needs to be far more collaborative, supportive and developmental. The system should be fair, transparent and solution focussed. Like many schools, we are feeding into the national inspection review and hope that along with recently released research from the Department for Education, there will be a positive change to the inspection process in the future.

Should you have any queries, please contact the school office at office@mandeville221.herts.sch.uk.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Fernanda Champness
Chair of Governors

Miss Kara Hales
Headteacher