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26<sup>th</sup> April 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you know, our school was inspected by Ofsted on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2017 and, on behalf of the Leadership Team and Governors, I am pleased to tell you **that Chesterton CE Primary School continues to be a 'Good School'**. As you are aware, our previous inspection took place in February 2013, when the school was also judged to be 'Good'. However, the Ofsted framework has changed twice since then, most recently in September 2015, and the expectations have risen significantly. Therefore, retaining our rating of 'Good' is very pleasing and validates the self-assessment of the Leadership Team and Governing Body. We were particularly pleased that the inspection reflected our pride in some of the many strengths that Chesterton has. I have included some of the highlights below.

*"You have been extremely well supported by able senior leaders, knowledgeable governors and eager staff who are keen to improve the school further."*

*"You have put in place effective professional development for staff. As a result, teaching skills are continually improving. Leaders' regular checks demonstrate that this training has had a positive impact on pupils' progress."*

*"Pupils immerse themselves fully in a wide range of high-quality learning experiences across the curriculum."*

*"Children in the early years make good progress. Teaching is effective and there is a sharp focus on developing children's key skills both inside the classroom and in the outside learning area."*

*"You enjoy high levels of support from parents who describe the school's strong, caring and supportive nature as a significant strength. Parents were unanimous in stating that they would recommend Chesterton to others."*

*"There is substantial evidence that the school's approach to improving pupils' reading comprehension skills is having a positive impact on their understanding of different and complex texts. Pupils, across a range of abilities, read confidently and with understanding."*

*"Pupils make good progress in mathematics. By the end of key stage 1, more pupils are reaching or exceeding the expected standard for their age... Consequently, pupils are prepared well for tackling more challenging learning in key stage 2."*

*"Pupils say that when they have any concerns staff listen and support them well. They know that adults will help resolve any incidents that occur. Parents are united in agreement that their children feel safe at school and gave examples of when staff have helped successfully with difficulties."*

*"Pupils flourish, both academically and personally, in this nurturing environment."*

*“The teaching of phonics is structured well and carefully matched to pupils’ levels of development. This ensures that pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities quickly develop secure reading skills.”*

Although, on the face of it, we have not ‘moved up’ on the Ofsted rating system (Inadequate, Requires Improvement, Good, Outstanding), we are extremely pleased that the report recognises that we have built on the good work that Mrs Woods began, and that the school has continued to make progress.

Some of you may be wondering why we are not an ‘Outstanding’ school. This is a complex question. In short, the benchmark to be Outstanding under the current Ofsted framework is extremely high and, at this point in time, we would have been wrong to assess ourselves as meeting those criteria. To give you some context, of the 385 inspections that have been carried out and reported so far in 2017, only seven resulted in an ‘Outstanding’ judgement (less than 2%).

I am not going to guarantee you that, come the time of our next inspection, which is likely to be in three to four years’ time, Chesterton will be an Outstanding School; nor that will we be making it our ‘be all and end all’ goal. However, I can promise you that the Governors, Leadership Team and staff are already looking at our next steps and will continue to strive to make improvements where we can; we certainly do not intend to ‘rest on our laurels’.

Our motivation has not and will not come primarily from external validation. I can assure you that we are dedicated to providing the best possible education that we can for our whole school community for the good of our pupils and their families. It is that commitment that will continue to drive all of our efforts.

I would also like to wholeheartedly thank you all for your valuable support during the inspection, particularly those who filled in the online Parent View questionnaire. Our staff were genuinely touched by the kind messages that we received and delighted to see that parents value our school so highly.

A copy of the full report is attached and will also be e-mailed to you. At the beginning of next week, the report is published on the Ofsted website.

Kind regards,

Mr I. Horner - Headteacher



# Chesterton CE Primary School

Generosity Integrity Humility Compassion Respect Resilience