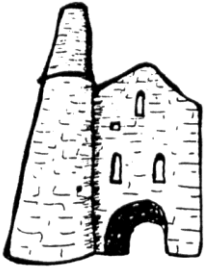


ST. DAY & CARHARRACK COMMUNITY SCHOOL



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Dear Families

Following our recent one day Ofsted monitoring visit on Monday December 10th 2018, I would like to direct you to the full report at: <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/21/111840> and summarise the findings in this letter.

I have to say at the outset, that since joining St Day and Carharrack – initially supporting in the Spring term 2018 and full time from September- I am incredibly impressed with the fighting spirit of the whole school team and how committed, dedicated and caring everyone is in ensuring standards continue to improve. Despite all the challenges, the team have been relentless, working tirelessly through lunchtimes and out of school hours to meet the demands of school life and to ensure our children are supported with daily opportunities to be successful. It is very hard for this spirit to be captured in a brief inspection. Since joining the school, I can assure you that everyone has worked incredibly hard in embracing change, in line with evidence based research, to enable our children to thrive. Teachers have taken on new initiatives and raised the expectations of themselves and the children in their class. The quality of teaching, learning and assessment has improved and our children are benefitting from a creative topic based curriculum. However, the rate of improvement has to be measured since the last inspection in 2017 and even though we are working at pace now, the report acknowledges that the turbulent year of events resulted in some inconsistencies in teaching and learning.

As many of you are aware, the school had a 'requires improvement' judgement in February 2015 and June 2017. This last visit in December was a section 8 monitoring visit – to judge the progress made since the last Ofsted. Whilst it is judged that 'Senior leaders and governors are not taking effective action because of the prolonged time taken to tackle some of the areas requiring improvement identified at the last section 5 inspection in order for the school to become good,' - the report also 'acknowledges that we are now working effectively to remedy historical weaknesses'.

'There have been marked and accelerated improvements in the school. The school is also now benefiting from a well-led and organised governing body.'

We are 'drawing on support from a range of sources, most notably from the local authority', local school-to-school support and evidence based research. The local authority is providing additional SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability) funding to support leaders in working with the recent influx of pupils with SEND and to improve safeguarding of the site.

With the support of the Governing Body, we have commissioned essential reviews, including health and safety, safeguarding, pupil-premium and a financial audit, to provide clear direction for improvement. We have a positive vision, an incredibly supportive and well equipped Governing

Body and of course, amazing children. Our middle leaders have embraced new systems and training, working on a clear improvement plan and hopeful of the journey ahead. We want St Day and Carharrack School to be at the heart of the community and will strive to ensure excellence and lasting change. We will have a full two day inspection before the end of this school year so you can be assured that we will all be working incredibly hard to meet precise ofsted targets and sustain lasting improvements for our children – based on raising standards through a creative curriculum.

As parents, you have a big role to play and we want to work closely with you in making sure this happens! We are going to need your support to be truly successful in our own right and to ensure the needs of all our families are met. My door is always open and I encourage you to drop in with concerns at any time. We worked together for a safer school in regards to parking, we now want a whole community focused on the best outcomes for our children- they deserve to have the best learning opportunities at all times and to be happy. We need your help! You will be able to support us to be consistent in areas that the inspector picked up on- including attendance, daily reading, daily times-tables, daily spellings, behaviour and having PE kits ready at all times. We will be running parent workshops based on your feedback. Please complete the questionnaires we are sending out to you this week- as your voice is key in helping us develop a school we are all proud of. We urge you to complete this so we can accurately represent your views. Last year, we only received a handful of completed questionnaires back. The Governing Body will analyse your results and feed back to you.

With a strong Governing Body and leadership team in place and a committed staff team, we are forging ahead positively to consolidate the changes we have initiated. The Governing Body, who volunteer so much of their time, work tirelessly to monitor the school and have a clear understanding of the most pressing issues and how to tackle them. We are on the journey to excellence and I have every confidence in the governors and school team that we can continue with our 'self-belief, determination and courage' to ensure our hard work makes a difference. I feel privileged to be working alongside and leading a committed, dedicated and resilient group of people, all keen to ensure St Day and Carharrack remains at the heart of the community. Above all, I know we have a great group of children who deserve the best opportunities.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns or suggestions.

Kind regards

Susannah Storey

Headteacher