



*'Learning together, loving others, guided by God'*

**Heene Church of England (Aided) Primary School**

**Headteacher: Mrs Jo MacGovern**

15<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

We are now just over half way through this academic year and we, as a governing body, thought it would be timely to update you on the work that has been going on in response to our Ofsted inspection in July.

We would like to thank Mrs MacGovern and all the staff at Heene for their hard work to date. Although there is still more to be done, a large number of changes and improvements have been made, some of which will be evident to pupils and parents and some of which are more 'behind the scenes'.

Below is a summary of the actions which have been taken in the areas which were deemed to require improvement, grouped by Ofsted inspection category:

**Effectiveness of leadership and management**

- An external review of governance is underway, as recommended in the Ofsted report. This, while recognising the strengths of the governing body, has identified a number of ways in which governors could support and challenge school leaders more consistently, as well as reflect on their own effectiveness. An action plan is currently being developed and we are confident that we will be able to move forward significantly as a governing body. Thankfully, our numbers have been strengthened since July and we are now a larger group which is individually and collectively committed to ensuring school improvement.
- The role of middle leaders has been reviewed and there is now a greater focus on defining expected progress by subject area and holding teachers and subject leaders to account for pupil progress across all subjects. As part of this work, there is now increased awareness of the need to identify pupils who are or should be working at greater depth and ensuring that they are consistently challenged in lessons. Miss Luke has been appointed to lead this work and is working closely with subject leaders and class teachers. A number of middle leaders will also be undertaking leadership training. Mrs Ferguson and the team of teaching assistants continue their invaluable work to provide targeted intervention for small groups of students.
- Mrs MacGovern and the rest of the senior leadership team are working closely with a partner primary school to share best practice. In addition, our improvement journey is being supported and closely monitored by advisors from West Sussex and the Diocese of Chichester, both of whom are a valuable source of advice. Moreover, feedback has been very positive from our advisors in terms of the changes made and the speed of their implementation.



Norfolk Street, WORTHING, West Sussex BN11 4BB

Email: [office@heeneprimary.co.uk](mailto:office@heeneprimary.co.uk) Telephone: 01903 201386 Fax: 01903 215033

### **Quality of teaching, learning and assessment / Outcomes for pupils**

- Senior leaders continue to monitor the teaching and learning in all classes, but with a renewed focus on improving consistency in parallel classes and on following up on the implementation of any suggested improvements.
- The teaching of phonics continues to build on its recent improvements and training for teachers and TAs has been carried out.
- Whilst pupil progress in reading is a strength of the school, a key priority is to improve pupil attainment in writing and mathematics. Mrs Cannon, Maths Subject Leader, continues to work on a Maths Specialist Programme with teachers from other schools to build and share best practice. A number of whole school writing initiatives have been put in place and staff have undertaken training, which has included sessions led by an external consultant. Miss Beer is taking over as English Subject Leader as part of our improvement journey.
- The approach to homework has been streamlined to ensure that key knowledge, such as reading, spellings, basic calculation skills and times tables, are firmly embedded.
- Pupil progress is reviewed termly to ensure that it is in line with expectations and any discrepancies are being challenged more rigorously. Intervention sessions are running for Year 6 pupils both before and after school and all Year 6 pupils have been provided with a range of revision materials for independent study.

Whilst we are committed to bringing about the improvements required to raise our inspection rating to good and from there to outstanding, we have a strong desire to retain the nurturing and caring environment which is synonymous with Heene Primary School and integral to our Christian values.

We are grateful for your continued support and goodwill as a parent body and will continue to do our best to ensure that each and every pupil can achieve his/her academic potential, enjoy a varied, inspirational and challenging curriculum, develop a strong sense of respect for themselves and others and understand, reflect on and embody British values, with a secure knowledge of the Christian faith.

If you have any queries about or comments on the above, please contact us via Tara Hunt, Clerk to the Governors at [clerk@heeneprimary.co.uk](mailto:clerk@heeneprimary.co.uk) or come along to our next governor clinic in the library after reading together on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March, where members of the governing body will be glad to meet and talk with you.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Kate Cooper & Mrs Freda Wimble  
Co-Chairs of Governors