



BURWELL VILLAGE COLLEGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Causeway

Burwell

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Dear Parents / Guardians

Today, attached with this letter, you will receive the Ofsted report, outlining the key findings from their recent visit. The school has been graded as **Requiring Improvement**. The report summarises areas that we need to improve in addition to reaffirming our many strengths. The Ofsted inspection report will be available on the Ofsted Website from Monday 23.4.18:

<https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report/provider/ELS/110758>

Firstly we would like to thank all of the staff for their dedication; the governors for their support; parents for their overwhelmingly positive feedback - something the inspector highlighted as a strength- and of course the pupils for their positive attitude to school and as the lead inspector said their "exemplary" behaviour.

As you can appreciate, the whole Ofsted process was challenging and quite rightly so. As a school we had no issues with the process and were reassured that Ofsted identified priorities that were already part of our current school improvement plan. We were aware that outcomes for the cohorts in 2017 had not matched national expectations both in KS1 and KS2 and this had led to our increased drive to raise attainment. The inspectors acknowledged that we are on a strong journey of school improvement; they agreed with our current priorities and the actions taken. However they were unable to make a good judgement on this journey until our actions have had an impact on pupil outcomes.

The Senior Leadership Team and governors received the feedback at the end of the inspection. We are implementing the required alterations to our plans with a sharper focus and with immediate effect. We need to ensure that our good teaching is consistent across all classes and all lessons to improve pupil outcomes. Staff and governors will continue to work to raise standards for every child in the school and we are currently refining our Ofsted action plan which we will share with parents in due course.

Reading the report, it is evident Burwell school has a real sense of community where pupils are valued and cared for. There is much to be proud of with many areas being recognised as good - especially the pupils' personal development and behaviour and the Early Years provision which the lead inspector described as "*Strongly Good*". Inspectors noted that "*The pastoral support provided by the school is a strength*" and that "*children learn in a safe and nurturing environment*". It was pleasing that they noticed the drastic improvements in KS1 phonics which has been a major school improvement target for the last 18 months. They also made positive comments about the teaching of maths which is an area we have been improving with the support of the local authority maths advisor. The inspectors also praised the excellent French & music teaching; effective use of Teaching Assistants; effective use of Sports Premium, as well as the effective support for pupils with Special Educational Needs.

We want our pupils to achieve the national expectations and we will continue to improve. No one wants to settle for anything less than a judgement of 'good'. Our dedicated staff will continue to work their hardest to raise achievement and we ask for your continued support ensuring your children are prepared for school. We really appreciate your support and trust that you will continue to read with them regularly and make sure they complete their homework.

Alongside all this hard work we must all also continue to remember that our children need time to be young, to learn to climb trees, make friends and enjoy themselves. At the heart of our vision for Burwell are happy, confident and well-rounded children. We are determined to preserve this crucial aim as we all work together to succeed.

Yours sincerely

Nicholas Smith
Headteacher

Davyd Andrew
Chair of Governors

