

16th October 2019

Dear Parents, Carers and the Laurance Haines community,

It gives me great pleasure to write to you all sharing the good news from our recent Ofsted experience. We have received our official report following the inspection on the 25th and 26th September 2019. The report is attached to this email and available on our website. It will be also be available on the Ofsted website on 22nd October 2019.

We are delighted that *'Laurance Haines continues to be a good school'*. You will all be aware that schools across the country are facing challenges with funding and recruitment. Despite this, our school team continue to focus their efforts on ensuring the very best outcomes for your children and the report gives us confirmation that the children of Laurance Haines really do get a good deal.

The report highlights that *'relationships are strong and the work of the school to bring the community together is valued'*, *'leaders have created a happy and united school community'* and *'pupils are able to overcome difficulties and be successful'*. As with any report, it also offers guidance on how the school can continue to improve. You will be aware that we have been developing our curriculum over recent years and that, again, it was described as *'ambitious'*. The inspector agreed that our plans for further development would enhance it over time and we agreed on three actions on moving forward.

The Ofsted framework, which we were inspected under, was introduced in September 2019. Therefore, we were one of the first primary schools inspected under this new framework. Having had the experience of an Ofsted Pilot Scheme in April of this year, school leaders had a clear understanding of what to expect but it remained a totally new and different experience for some of our staff and governors.

Throughout the inspection and as ever, your children were wonderful ambassadors for Laurance Haines School and described the school as *'friendly, enjoyable place'*. Your staff worked day and night to showcase the children's learning and what we do best as a school for your children and the community. We were also well supported by our governors, the Trust central team and our partner schools, Beechfield and Cherry Tree.

The inspector was grateful to parents for their verbal and written comments during the inspection and all parent survey information was shared openly with inspectors which reflected the school's self-evaluation of things we do well and where we are working tirelessly to make improvements, with clear strategic direction. One parent commented, *'the teachers give each child importance, and this makes them feel special'*.

Whilst we are all incredibly proud to have the recognition from Ofsted that our school continues to provide our children with an environment *'where everyone is made to feel welcome and every step to success is celebrated'*, it must be known that we focus our school improvement efforts on what we believe to be best for our children and not what is right in the eyes of Ofsted. Every member of the school team strives to give opportunities for the children to grow, leading to a better future for all. This work continues to take place on a day-to-day and a child-by-child basis.

Thank you to you all for your continued support and commitment to make our school such a great place to be for children, parents and staff. Should you wish to discuss anything from the report, please do not hesitate to speak with me at a convenient time. Here's to a better future for everyone in the Laurance Haines family!

Warm regards,

Sebastian Gray
Headteacher