



Laurance Haines
School

Vicarage Road, Watford, WD18 0DD
Tel: 01923 233146 e-mail: admin@lhaines.herts.sch.uk

ENJOY, CARE, AIM HIGH AND SUCCEED TOGETHER

26 November 2014

Dear Parents and Carers

Ofsted Report November 2014

I am very pleased to be able to attach the Ofsted report for the inspection that took place on 11th and 12th November 2014.

The report confirms that Laurance Haines Primary School is a 'Good' school and the wording reflects the fact that we are very close to 'Outstanding'. Indeed this was the main content of much of the discussions that took place between myself and the inspectors during their visit.

This is no mean feat because since the last time we were inspected there have been a number of revisions to the Ofsted process, making the requirements to be designated a good or outstanding school even more stringent than ever before.

A big thank you must go first to the children. As always they did their parents, the school, and themselves proud. Inspectors found that *'The behaviour of pupils is outstanding. Pupils display excellent attitudes to school and a clear love of learning. Pupils behave very well, both in lessons and around the school. They show good manners and are polite and welcoming.'* The safety of pupils was also rated as outstanding. *'Pupils are taught explicitly ways to keep themselves safe in a range of settings. They understand different types of bullying and feel confident in the ability of staff to deal with situations that arise.'* Inspectors also noted that the achievement of pupils was good *'By the time pupils leave Year 6, standards overall are above the national average.'*

Inspectors were impressed by the high standards of teaching, commenting that *'Teaching is good throughout the school and some is outstanding. Teaching assistants are used effectively to help pupils to achieve well. Skilled questioning and good-quality marking is used well.'* *'Relationships between pupils and staff are excellent. Pupils know that their teachers want them to succeed and they try very hard as a result.'*

I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who works or volunteers in school for all of the hard work and dedication they show to our pupils. I am very pleased that the report recognises this.

The report rightly acknowledges the significant and valuable contribution that parents/carers play in supporting pupils in their learning by working with the school. Thank you to those parents who took the



time to speak to the inspectors directly or share their views via Parentview. *'Parents are very happy with the school. They appreciate its inclusive and welcoming climate and say that the school is 'like a family.'*

Inspectors could clearly see that our school values and ethos permeate all aspects of school life. *'The school prepares pupils very well for life in modern British society. They are taught to be tolerant and accepting, to value people's differences and to celebrate diversity. Pupils understand democracy and the importance of following rules.'* *'The school's curriculum is broad and balanced. Social, moral, spiritual and cultural development is threaded through everything that the school does and is a particular strength.'*

The leadership and management of the school was also judged to be outstanding and it was noted that *'The headteacher is an excellent leader with a very clear vision and a determination to succeed. The school is improving rapidly as a result of outstanding leadership.'* *'Governors are experienced and knowledgeable. They are committed to the school's development and hold the leadership to account very well.'*

We will now of course be working on what we need to do to reach an outstanding overall judgement. As directed by Ofsted, we will look at how we can raise standards at the end of Key Stage 1 to meet national standards and ensure attainment in writing at the start of Key Stage 2 rises as quickly as in other subjects. In addition we will ensure that the exciting new school curriculum we have recently introduced develops, to provide the richness and variety needed to promote exceptional achievement and opportunity to consolidate and develop pupils' skills in writing.

I am extremely proud of this report and believe it truly captures what is special about our school. I would urge you to spend some time reading through the full report which is attached and can be viewed by following the link on the school website. This report will appear on the Ofsted website next week. A hard copy of the full report is also available from the school office on request.

James Roach
Headteacher