



Executive Principal: Heather Barraclough
Head of School: Jill Quine

21st February 2018

Dear Parents / Carers,

As you are aware, our Ofsted Inspection took place at Othery Village School on Thursday 25th January 2018. The short inspection process changed at the beginning of January 2018 which meant that Othery Village School has received a letter rather than a full inspection report. This letter will be published on 26th February 2018 and we feel it is important to write to you to discuss the judgments made. The Ofsted letter is attached and will be available to view on our website and also the official Ofsted website.

The headline judgment is that *'there is no change to the school's current overall effectiveness grade of good as a result of this inspection.'*

It may seem difficult to understand how the two schools have received different judgements on two recent occasions separated by only a few weeks, especially as two of the three classes observed on both occasions were the same classes. We feel it is only fair to point out, that it was purely a matter of chance that the two schools were inspected by two different inspectors at the point when the Ofsted inspection judgements changed: one set of judgements went out of use in December 2017 and new ones came into force in January 2018. It is absolutely right that an inspector makes their judgement on the day based on what they have seen in the school against the current inspection criteria, and that their judgements should not be influenced by any prior knowledge. However, we would like to point out that we feel there is essentially no significant difference between the standards at Othery and Middlezoy. They share a governing body and head, as well as a common purpose and School Improvement Plan, and while we cannot, in any way, argue with the Ofsted judgements, we would maintain that the provision is the same at both schools, and we are fully intent on driving improvement equally, at both. We can reasonably expect them both to be inspected again within 2 years. It is to be hoped that by then, the inspections can be co-ordinated so as to avoid everyone having to endure the process twice in such a short space of time and in the interests of consistency.

Our priority has always been to create an environment where our children are proud to be part of an energetic, vibrant community, where they feel safe and supported and where they can learn to be valued as life-long learners.

Othery Village School
Othery
Bridgwater
Somerset
TA7 0PX

Tel: 01823 698464
Fax: 01823 698464
email: office@otheryvillage.somerset.sch.uk

Middlezoy Primary School
Church Road
Middlezoy
Bridgwater
Somerset
TA7 0NZ

Tel 01823 698465
Tel: 01823 698085
email: office@middlezoy.somerset.sch.uk



Executive Principal: Heather Barraclough

Head of School: Jill Quine

The Ofsted inspector recognised that *'Improvements to the quality of teaching, learning and assessment are being made,'* and that *'there is evidence in workbooks that pupils are able to work out more complex mathematical problems as a result of this better teaching.'* It was also observed that there is *'a strong, caring culture.'*

Safeguarding was considered effective, supported by appropriate training ensuring all children are safe. Staff are vigilant and aware of how to notice and report any signs of concern. They are kept informed of any changes to safeguarding guidance throughout the year through regular updates.

However, we must also take account of the specific areas where the letter notes the next steps we need to take. The inspector recognised that there had been significant staffing changes. We will take on board the comments regarding raising expectations and providing sufficient challenge to ensure all pupils make better progress. We trust you will support us with this, as partnerships with home are crucial. We will also be working more closely with our Trust partner schools to provide support for staff in making assessments and high quality professional development

Please be assured that we are taking all steps necessary to ensure that Middlezoy and Othery Village Schools are classed as 'good' at their next inspection. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to come and speak to Mrs Quine.

Yours sincerely,

J. Quine
Head of School

Ros Fanshawe
Chair of Governors

Jim Hughes
Chair of Directors

Othery Village School
Othery
Bridgwater
Somerset
TA7 0PX

Tel: 01823 698464
Fax: 01823 698464
email: office@otheryvillage.somerset.sch.uk

Middlezoy Primary School
Church Road
Middlezoy
Bridgwater
Somerset
TA7 0NZ

Tel 01823 698465
Tel: 01823 698085
email: office@middlezoy.somerset.sch.uk