



Executive Principal: Heather Barraclough
Head of School: Jill Quine

Dear Parents / Carers,

As you are no doubt aware, our Ofsted Inspection took place on Wednesday 6th and Thursday 7th December 2017. The report will be published on Monday 15th January 2018 and we feel it is important to write to you to discuss the judgments made. The full report will be available to view on our website and also the official Ofsted website. Please contact the school office if you require a paper copy.

The headline judgment is that the school 'requires improvement to be good' and this will be our continuing focus in the coming months. There is no doubt that this is a disappointing outcome for a school that has clearly made so much progress since the last Ofsted inspection under a previous framework when it was assessed as good. It is important therefore to get behind the headlines to the detail of the report.

As stated in our newsletter in September by the Executive Principal, the Government has brought about a number of changes into schools in relation to curriculum and assessment, including a curriculum with higher expectations of all pupils whatever their starting points and a very challenging and ruthless OFSTED inspection framework. The judgement of 'Good' is now harder to achieve than it was in the past, with the now higher raised expectations being implemented so suddenly.

Our priority has 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.

The Ofsted inspector stated '*the school is a harmonious and strongly inclusive community where all pupils are respected and valued as individuals.*' Our pupils receive a '*well-planned curriculum which gives them broad experiences to enrich their time in school.*' It was also observed that pupils '*behave well and feel safe in school. All staff know the pupils well and are vigilant in securing pupils' safety.*'

Safeguarding was considered a strength of the school, our policies thorough and training regular and rigorous. It is reassuring that Middlezoy School is recognised as a safe and happy place for children to learn. There is so much to be proud of. Ofsted recognised that children in the early years make good progress as do pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities.

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However, we must also take account of the specific areas where the report notes a requirement to improve. The areas for improvement are clear from the report. There are some aspects of our school leadership that are addressed in the report, which we will be focusing on. The inspector recognised that there had been significant staffing changes and that these had not had time to impact positively as yet, but they require that we move swiftly to implement our school development plan to ensure that teaching improves.

We will take on board the comments regarding improving the quality of teaching so that achievement is strengthened including reviewing the teaching of maths and punctuation. We trust you will support us with this, as partnerships with home are crucial.

We fully accept that the next stage of our journey requires us to consolidate our good teaching and develop all teaching to that standard. As we move forward from this inspection these steps will enable us to be a stronger and better school as a result. To be labelled as a school judged not good enough to maintain its previous Ofsted assessment does feel somewhat harsh. However, we accept the inspector's judgement as it recognises the areas we had already identified as needing more development.

Please be assured that we are taking all steps necessary to make Middlezoy Primary School a 'Good' school. 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
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