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Dear Parents and Carers

As you are aware, our Ofsted Inspection took place on Tuesday 9th and Wednesday 10th October. The report has now been checked by the Ofsted QA team and we are able to share it with you.

The full report is now available to view on our website [www.gothamprimary.co.uk](http://www.gothamprimary.co.uk) and will also be on the official Ofsted website <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/> from 12th November.

As well as publishing the report for you to read on our website, we feel it is important to write to you to discuss the judgements which have been made about our school.

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 was judged to be good in our July 2014 Ofsted inspection.

In March 2018 when we were re-inspected we already knew that our progress and attainment data was inconsistent, which placed us in a vulnerable position, and we have already been working on addressing these issues. The Local Authority designated us an Education Improvement Advisor, Kate Cumberpatch, to support our work, however because we were re-inspected so quickly not all of our improvement strategies have had a chance to be fully embedded.

It is important therefore to get behind the headlines to the detail of the report.

The Ofsted inspectors stated that the promotion of pupil’s personal development and welfare is a strength and that pupils are cared for well. It is clear from the inspection that we have a strong ethos, culture and sense of community at Gotham Primary School and the inspectors noted the behaviour of the children was good. Safeguarding was also considered a strength of the school, and the inspectors noted that the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our children is promoted well.

Sadly our very poor attendance and punctuality data meant that the overall grade for personal development, behaviour and welfare is “Requires Improvement”. This is because attendance comes under behaviour, and attendance carries more weight in this area than other factors. When I challenged this with the lead inspector she said that non-attendance and arriving at school late are behaviours, and that we must work to improve attendance and punctuality. As parents of Gotham Primary School you can help us to ensure our attendance is in line with National data by making sure that your children are not taken out of school during term time and that they arrive in school before the bell rings at 8.55am. New procedures to help improve attendance will be implemented in the next few days.

We had already begun to work on the areas where the report notes a requirement to improve. For example, we monitor the use of our Pupil Premium funding more carefully. As an inclusive school we have always aimed for every child to reach their full potential and will continue to maintain this focus.

We had already begun to develop our school improvement plan, using a new format from the Local Authority, and this has meant that it is now sufficiently detailed and can be monitored more efficiently.

We are working with Jesse Gray Primary School to ensure that our teaching is consistent and that more able children are given adequate challenges. Inspectors praised teaching staff for their strong subject knowledge, improvements in the teaching of phonics and consistent approach to teaching grammar, punctuation and spelling. We acknowledge that the next stage of our journey requires us to consolidate our good teaching and develop this so that it is at a consistently high standard.

The team also commented that we have a broad and balanced wider curriculum, but they said that to further improve this we need to ensure that more children practise their spelling, punctuation and grammar skills when they are writing at length across the curriculum.

There are some aspects of our school leadership and governance processes that are also addressed in the report, and we will be focusing on these too. Our Governing body remains fully supportive of the school as a whole and takes on board the need to review the way they work too. Our school leadership team is making it far easier for progress towards targets to be evaluated and challenged by the governors.

We can now begin to work on all of the areas for improvement in anticipation of an Ofsted monitoring visit in the next year to check progress towards the key targets identified, and we expect another full inspection after two years. As we move forward from this inspection these steps will enable us to be a stronger and better school as a result.

To be judged as a school not good enough to maintain its previous Ofsted assessment has been deeply disappointing for our staff and governors. I know from the supportive comments that you shared with the inspectors and from the feedback that you gave to our annual consultation that there are a great many aspects of our provision at Gotham Primary which you value.

We accept the inspection judgement as we know there are areas where we have work to do, and we will use this as a catalyst to make Gotham Primary the good school we know it should and can be.



Sue Lymn-Brewin Cath Kaylor

Head Teacher Chair of Governors