4 May 2017

Dear Parents / Carers,

As you are no doubt aware, our Ofsted Inspection took place on Tuesday 21st and Wednesday 22nd March 2017. The report will be published on the Ofsted website this week and we feel it is important to write to you to discuss the judgments made. The full report is now available to view on our website. Please contact the school office if you require a paper copy.

Clearly the school has undergone a significant period of turbulence over the last five years. This was recognised by the Ofsted Inspector.

The headline judgment is that the school ‘requires improvement to be good’ and this will be our continuing focus. There is no doubt that this is a disappointing outcome for the school, as under the previous inspection framework we were assessed as good. It is important therefore to get behind the headlines to the detail of the report.

The inspector recognised the progress made to date and that there is:

**“A restored spirit of mutual understanding exists at all levels of leadership, including governance”**

**“The recently appointed Executive Headteacher and Assistant Headteachers promote a clear vision for the school’s development. Improvements are already evident in the quality of teaching, learning and assessment, safeguarding and pupil’s general behaviour”**

**“Governors have successfully maintained the school’s inclusive culture despite a period of instability”**

**“Good provision in the Early Years ensures that children make rapid progress and achieve well”**

These are all very positive points. We are pleased that the Early Years provision has received a Good judgment. This supports the positive start and opportunities given to the children on entering the school. In addition to the children making good academic progress, they also develop the necessary personal and social skills required to take their learning forward.

“**Pupils enjoy school, especially the strong provision for music and sport and their good relationships with each other and with adults.”**

The report recognises the breadth that the curriculum here at St Mary’s offers all pupils.

The report also recognises that children with additional needs receive good provision and are well supported by teaching assistants within a culture where pupil’s spiritual, moral and cultural development is well catered for.

However, there is still much work to be done and the staff and governors are committed to ensuring the school secures a Good judgment at re-inspection. We have already started working closely with a National Leader of Education in order to ensure that our actions will bring about an improvement in outcomes for all children.

We will continue our work to ensure the children at St Mary’s are sufficiently challenged and that standards continue to improve for all children. This means greater levels of consistency across the school in the quality of teaching, learning and assessment. The leadership team had identified this as a priority and initiatives introduced are improving the quality of teaching. This is further supported by the development of middle leaders.

We now have six months before an Ofsted monitoring visit to check progress towards the key targets identified, and two years at most before another full inspection. As we move forward from this inspection these steps will enable us to be a stronger and better school as a result.

As a school, we will continue with the improvements already seen in the quality of teaching, learning and assessment, safeguarding and pupil’s general behaviour. This will ensure that St. Mary’s Catholic Primary School is the best that it possibly can be.

Yours sincerely,

Frances Guppy Mark Burrough

Executive Headteacher Chair of governors