



Blean Primary School

'Learning together to enjoy and achieve'

Whitstable Road, Blean, Canterbury, Kent, CT2 9ED

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18th March 2016

Dear Parents/Carers

As you are all aware Blean School was subject to a long overdue short inspection on 1st March by Mr Robin Hammerton (HMI), which converted to a full inspection with an additional four OfSTED inspectors on Wednesday 2nd March. We are pleased to provide a copy of the full report, which judges that overall Blean School is judged to be an Outstanding school.

All Staff and Governors welcome the report and are delighted with OfSTED's view that 'The school is led ambitiously and inventively'. Underpinning our pupils' achievements is our 'very rich, broad and balanced curriculum' and Inspectors acknowledged that Blean is a 'creative and imaginative school'. Leadership at all levels was recognised as a strength and our Forum Group praised as a 'dynamic, expert, passionate and creative group of middle leaders'. The Governing Body do an 'excellent job'. 'It both supports and challenges the school to continue to improve'. Inspectors agree with the school's view that 'Pupils achieve very highly in English and Mathematics across the school and they make excellent progress' and that this is true for all groups of children including those identified with disabilities or special educational needs and for children who are less advantaged 'which is commendable'. Pupils who show high ability in any particular area are usually 'challenged highly and can achieve very well'. The dedication, skill and commitment of our brilliant teaching team is also recognised with the Inspection Report stating 'Teaching across the school is of a consistently high standard. It is stimulating and creative. Pupils really enjoy the lessons'. Our Teaching Assistants are also praised for 'making a strong contribution to pupils' learning'.

It is also pleasing that the OfSTED team states that 'Pupils are friendly, considerate and polite and they want to learn'. The team also commented on how our pupils 'are looked after and safeguarded very well. They feel highly safe and secure in the school'. Inspectors also agreed that 'The school's work to promote pupils' personal development and welfare is outstanding'. The provision in breakfast and after school club is judged as 'high quality'.

The Inspection team confirmed that 'the school evaluates its work accurately' and 'these evaluations lead to precise and robust improvement planning'. Aspects highlighted for further improvement are; to continue the work already underway to improve the teaching and provision in the Early Years. Although it was recognised that children get off to a good start and are taught well at the beginning of their school career. With 'vibrant and attractive classrooms' and children's writing is 'very good for their age'. Inspectors have highlighted that behaviour of our children is not yet outstanding because sometimes children become 'fidgety and chat in lessons', 'play with each others' hair or run in the corridors'. We will be using our 'Learner Standards' to support improvements to behaviour during transitions and assemblies to support children in demonstrating excellent behaviour at all times.

The OfSTED team recognised that 'The school has improved its work with parents considerably. Parents are very pleased indeed with the school. They appreciate the ready availability of staff. They feel their children are thriving, with good reason'. Other positive comments related to improved information sharing, 'tea and topics' sessions and our informative and easy to navigate website. Thank you to all the parents who came into school or completed ParentView who spoke so proudly of their school. Although we endeavour to gather, understand and respond to the views of our parents and have successfully achieved the Leading Parental Partnership Award to demonstrate our commitment to this aspect of our work we are not complacent. We also appreciate that, despite all the improvements noted since the last inspection,





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there continues to be a small minority of parents who do not believe that when they raise concerns or complaints that these are listened to, valued and considered fairly. During our school conference in February all staff and Governors had reflected on this and begun to map out a plan to increase the confidence of our parent body; which will include a review of our Communication and Complaints Policies.

Since our last inspection in July 2011, Blean School has been on an improvement journey that has been far greater than the areas for development identified in that inspection. This report is testimony to the sustained commitment, skill, dedication and unwavering belief that all staff have in all our children. The inspection judgements contained in the recent report provide a wonderful juncture in which to reflect and celebrate on our achievements and also to plan the next chapter of the school's improvement journey.

Yours sincerely

Mrs L Lawrence
Headteacher

Mr H Samuelson
Chair of Governors