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Dear parents and carers

Please find attached our latest Ofsted inspection report. As you may be aware, in light of some important priorities identified for the school at the previous inspection in 2018 (inconsistencies within the teaching of reading and lower outcomes for disadvantaged pupils) we had a 2-day inspection on 15-16 September this year. We have been judged to be Good in all areas. It is worth noting that there have been significant changes to the Ofsted framework since the previous inspection. Where judgements were based on a 'best fit' measure, it is now a requirement that an outstanding judgement be 'exemplary' and 'exceptional'. In essence, the bar is now higher than before. So while it is not as easy to see the amount of improvement that has taken place in terms of the Ofsted overall judgement, it is pleasing that the work that has taken place over the last few years has been recognised within the wording of the report. Here are a few highlights from the report:

*Pupils are proud of their school. They achieve well and talk confidently about their learning.*

*One pupil said, 'Every day I wake up smiling because the school is such a good place and everyone is so nice.'*

*Pupils say they feel safe.*

*Pupils behave well in and out of the classroom.*

*Staff are proud to work at the school.*

*Pupils rise to leaders' high expectations.*

*Leaders have improved the quality of teaching reading since the last inspection.*

*Subject leaders are passionate about and know their subjects well. Leaders have largely developed a well-sequenced curriculum that build on pupils' prior knowledge.*

*Pupils read widely and often. They talk passionately about the different books they read...*

*Pupils show a sensitivity about issues around the world. One child said, 'If a refugee joined the school they would be welcomed, because even though we are different, we are really just the same. Pupils hold respectful views and embrace each other's differences.'*

Of course, there are always areas for improvement: Ofsted highlight the need for further development for leaders of some subjects - all teachers with the exception of newly qualified teachers lead a subject across the school. We are already part way along this journey and so we will continue to support teachers to develop their leadership of curriculum specialisms.

Secondly the report highlights a focus on the school identifying gaps in learning but with greater emphasis needed on building on previous learning to deepen understanding. At the last statutory assessments (2018-19) we had a 3-year upward trend in results and high progress scores. Our internal data since then has shown that this trend has continued. We will continue to build on this.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend our teachers for their on-going dedication, hard work and commitment to improvement whilst simultaneously dealing with the impact on learning of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The school will now continue to improve from a strong and secure base. We will continue to improve our school in a way that is sustainable for our teachers and ultimately beneficial to the pupil and families of Northfield Manor.

Thank you as always for your support

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