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Head of School: Mrs D. Loveless
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HEARTS ACADEMY TRUST

14th December 2023

Re: Ofsted Inspection

Dear Parents,

It is with enormous pleasure that I am able to share with you the outcomes and report from our recent Ofsted inspection (8th – 9th November 2023). The latest education framework was last updated in 2019 and used to make judgements on school's "overall effectiveness", besides the four key judgement categories (the quality of education, behaviour and attitudes, personal development, leadership and management). Inspections are very robust and thoroughly examine these categories through lesson observations, discussions with staff, parent surveys, pupil voice and children's work; I am delighted to inform you that we have been judged as 'good' in all categories, which is a fantastic achievement for our whole school community.

The Ofsted framework is rigorous; a 'good' grading is quite the benchmark and measure of achievement. The inspection team highlighted so many strengths across our setting and the report includes many positives which we are immensely proud of. It contains many highlights:

- Pupils are proud to attend Stambridge Primary School.
- All pupils across the school understand the high expectations for behaviour set for them.
- Pupils of all ages are focused and purposeful in lessons.
- The school sets clear boundaries for what is acceptable and unacceptable conduct. Pupils pride themselves on working within these.
- Pupils, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) benefit from a well-organised curriculum.
- Staff deliver the phonics programme consistently well, enabling pupils to develop fluency and confidence quickly.
- The school has cultivated a love of books in all pupils by ensuring they have access to and read a variety of different types of texts and stories.
- The school has put in place a deliberate plan, the 'HEARTS promise', which covers the wide range of experiences and visits every pupil will receive by the time they leave the school. As a result, pupils are enthusiastic and positive about their school experience.
- Pupils are well prepared for their adulthood.

As part of all Ofsted inspections, areas for development are identified to help schools to build on their successes in future years. During our inspection, the inspectors noted that in *some* lessons teachers could better implement different teaching strategies in order to ensure *all* pupils retain core knowledge to the best of their ability. It is important to note that this was only seen in *some* lessons, and for *some* pupils. This 'AFI' (area for improvement) is



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centred mainly around our own assessment procedures. At Stambridge, I will therefore continue to work closely in collaboration with our staff to support them in delivering lessons across the entire curriculum that extend and deepen children's learning; this will develop the pupils' ability to better remember and recall the knowledge that has been imparted in lessons as learning will be better committed to children's long-term memory.

Throughout the inspection, the team of inspectors collect an abundance of evidence and provide regular reports to leaders during this process (which we made note of). As Ofsted are not able to include everything in a final report, I would like to share some of the feedback that was relayed to leaders throughout the inspection:

- Staff have created an exceptional and inclusive culture at Stambridge.
- Relationships between staff and pupils are positive; children understand differences and are able to say that some pupils may need support. Children know which pupils need support and are able to explain that this is part of life and that everyone is different – there is a really positive and mature attitude towards these differences, from all children.
- Leaders react to specific contexts relevant to the school: workshops delivered about online safety; careers week, etc. help children understand society and there is a broad range of clubs and activities; the school is ambitious about carefully planned activities, including residential visits and enterprise events.
- The school supports all of its pupils through plans and procedures; this is down to the integrity and hard work of all staff.
- Leaders are tenacious about safeguarding; children know how to keep themselves safe. This includes things that are important to the school's context, like road safety etc. The children know and speak of 'trusted adults' who they can speak to and they therefore feel listened and supported.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the entire Stambridge community, from pupils and parents to volunteers and LAB members. I would also like to thank the HEARTS central team, including trustees; Directors of Curriculum, Learning and Assessment leads; Lead Practitioners and senior leaders including Mr. Wry (our Executive Headteacher) who have all been incredibly supportive not just through this inspection but in the years preceding, helping us to develop Stambridge into the amazing place of learning that it is today.

Our own staff also deserve particularly emphatic praise; they all work tirelessly to support and educate our children and continue to do so. I am very grateful and proud of the fantastic team that we have here at Stambridge.

Please find attached our inspection report alongside this letter. The report can also be viewed at <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/> in the coming days; we will also publish the report on our school website.

Once again, a huge congratulations and a sincere thank you to everyone who is a part of our wonderful school and community. This is a wonderful achievement and one which we should all be very proud of. I look forward to continuing to build on the successes of this inspection, moving from strength to strength, and working in ongoing partnership with all of you.

Kind regards,



Mrs. D Loveless
Head of School