

# ASHILL VC PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Oaks, Ashill, Thetford, Norfolk, IP25 7AP

Tel/Fax – 01760 440403

Email: [office@ashill.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:office@ashill.norfolk.sch.uk)

Website: [www.ashillschool.co.uk](http://www.ashillschool.co.uk)



Headteacher: Mr Steve Creasey

Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023

Dear Parent or Carer,

## **Ofsted Inspection Report – September 2023**

As you will be aware, back in September we had a two day, graded Ofsted inspection. The inspection process results in an overall grade but has areas that are graded individually; quality of education, behaviour and attitudes, personal development, leadership and management and early years. It feels like it's been a very long time since the inspection, over six weeks ago, but I'm pleased to be able to finally share the report with you.

In summary, we are delighted to inform you that Ashill VC Primary School remains a 'Good' school overall but for the first time in the school's history, we have achieved 'Outstanding' in two of the five areas that we were inspected against; personal development and leadership and management.

To give additional context, since the new Ofsted inspection framework was adopted in 2019, it has been widely reported that the inspection process has been more challenging for smaller primary schools to either maintain their existing grading or improve further, due to the new demands and curriculum expectations. Also, given that the school isn't part of a formal partnership, federation or academy trust, it is rare for a school with our context, to achieve areas deemed 'Outstanding'.

Aside from the inspection grading, we're most pleased that the report is a genuine reflection of the school; what it's like to work here, be a pupil here and highlighting the significant strengths of the school. We would still say that 'we're not perfect' and there will always be exceptions and room for improvement but we know that we have a dedicated team of staff and governors, many of whom have worked here a number of years and who 'live and breathe' the school. It is also reassuring that the report recognises that pupils behave well, engage in their learning, enjoy coming to school and most importantly feel safe.

The one aspect the inspectors and we, as a leadership team, agreed needed further development was with some areas of our foundation curriculum; those subjects that often aren't taught as much. Our curriculum is, and always will be, an evolving process that responds to the needs of our children. We've developed so many areas of the curriculum over the past few years and we look forward to continuing our curriculum journey and developing this further, building upon what we've achieved so far.

Moving forward, we will continue to work informally with local schools such as Necton and Heartwood Primary School and, with the strength in outcomes following this inspection and the experience and strength of the staff and governing body, we are satisfied that we can continue to be a Local Authority, Church of England school, as part of the Diocese of Norwich, with no intention at present to be part of an academy trust.

I'd personally like to thank you as parents for your support. It was very clear from the parent survey that you hold the school in high regard and you are very much part of the community that the report celebrates. We hope you enjoy reading it and if you have any questions or comments, we'd love to hear from you. Please feel free to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

Steve Creasey  
Headteacher



WE PROMOTE STAFF WELL-BEING