

Headteacher: Crissy Hodgkinson

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Petersfield Infant School

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24 November 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Ofsted Inspection of Petersfield Infant School – October 2022

On 18 and 19 October, Petersfield Infant School received its first Ofsted inspection in 14 years. As you will read in the enclosed Ofsted Inspection Report, the school was judged to be Good in four of the five areas of evaluation and Requires Improvement in one. If any area of evaluation is judged to be Requires Improvement, even if all other areas are Good, the overall effectiveness of a school is judged Requires Improvement. It is important to note that a school that is judged to be Requires Improvement is not a failing school.

Whilst it is disappointing to have received this overall effectiveness judgement, the report validates the rapid pace of change instigated by Crissy Hodgkinson when appointed Acting Headteacher in September 2021. The report also supports the school improvement priorities agreed by the governing body for 2021-22 and 2022-23. The Ofsted judgement aligns with and confirms the assessment by Senior Leaders and the Hampshire Inspection and Advisory Service (HIAS), recognising the significant positive change already made by teachers and staff, supported by HIAS.

The Ofsted report not only identifies areas that require improvement, but also highlights where the school is good – a school to which parents in our community are happy to send their children. Parents commented on the supportive staff and the positive changes that have been brought about by the new headteacher. Ofsted stated that our headteacher has had a sharp focus on improving the curriculum. During the verbal post-inspection debrief, the lead Ofsted inspector told governors that our headteacher has clear ambition and expectations for children; has taken difficult decisions and should be commended.

The school remains committed to delivering the best education for the children of our community. The staff are supported by Crissy and in turn, Crissy has the full support of the governing body. Between now and the next Ofsted inspection, typically within 18 months, the school will continue to follow its improvement plan to guide the development of the agreed priorities. To expedite the improvements, there will be additional support from HIAS. Our children only stand to benefit from this increased support and focus on aligning the school with the Ofsted inspection framework.

Should you have questions about the report and its impact on our children, please contact our headteacher, Crissy Hodgkinson, via the school office.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Julian James'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line above the first name.

Julian James
Chair of Governors