



VILLAGE SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

Small Schools - Big Futures

Headteacher: Matt Cole
head@villageschools.org.uk

Partnership Office: Parkham Primary School,
Parkham, Bideford EX39 5PL

23rd April 2024

Dear Parents

Following on from the school's inspection on 5th and 6th March, I am writing to inform you that the report is now available for you to read and is attached to this message.

Anyone who has been involved with our school over the last two years will know that there have been massive improvements made to the quality of education and general school experience provided to your children. This is due to the dedication of the staff; both in Buckland Brewer School and across the Village Schools Partnership; to the hard work of the children; which impresses me every day I'm at the school; and of course the support we receive from you, our parents.

We are very pleased that Ofsted have recognised this work, in terms of implementing a new curriculum, changing approaches to teaching and learning and giving the children the rich variety of experiences which all help to bring their learning to life and develop their understanding of the world around them.

We are, however, extremely disappointed that the structures within which Ofsted operates could not fully recognise these achievements purely because they are still under development: Ofsted wanted to see a finished product; they saw things 90% completed. We have a three year Plan to improve the school and, at the time of the Inspection, we were just short of two years through it, but ahead of schedule.

I am very proud to say that, as a School and as a Partnership, we have taken brave decisions to improve outcomes for your children and I know that the vast majority of parents are pleased with how things have progressed over the last two years. To have ducked those challenges and left the school as it was before would have been a huge disservice to our children and you, their families. It is incredibly frustrating that Ofsted resolved to pass the judgement that it did, purely because things are still in progress, whilst acknowledging in feedback that the school is on exactly the right journey and should continue with all its identified priorities.

I sincerely hope that you will bear these points in mind and read beyond the headlines of the Report, which woefully neglects to tell the story of the school and the children in it: we always will strive to improve our school – it's what we do every day, and we will continue on our school improvement journey over the coming terms and years with your very much valued support.

Mrs Kersey, Governor Graham Bolland and I will be holding a meeting on Thursday afternoon for any parents who would like to find out more about the Report and the journey we are on. If you would like to come along, please do – it will begin at 2:30pm in the school hall.

Yours sincerely,



Matt Cole, Headteacher



Buckland Brewer Primary: buckland@villageschools.org.uk 01237 451315



Parkham Primary: parkham@villageschools.org.uk 01237 451334



Woolsery Primary: woolsery@villageschools.org.uk 01237 431307