

Headteacher

John Galvin

Petworth C of E Primary SchoolSouth Grove, Petworth,
West Sussex, GU28 0EE**Tel:** 01798 342369**Fax:** 01798 343195**E-mail:** office@petworth.w-sussex.sch.uk**Website:** www.petworth.w-sussex.sch.uk

24th May 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you are aware on Wednesday 3rd and Thursday 4th May 2017 an Ofsted Inspection took place at Petworth CoFE Primary School. We would like to say a big thank you to all of the parents who encouraged us through the inspection process and who went out of their way to say positive things about the school to the inspectors.

There are many positives to be taken from the report, not the least the inspectors recognised that we are an 'improving school'. We are delighted that our Early Years provision is graded as 'good'. However, Ofsted graded the school overall as 'Requires Improvement', mainly due to our disappointing 'outcomes' over the last three years i.e. our SATs results.

This inspection also looked at other aspects of school life and we were pleased that Ofsted recognised that our school is strong in many areas such as:

- Early Years provision
- the distinctive Christian ethos and the social, moral, spiritual and cultural development of children
- our curriculum
- pupils behaviour
- personal development and pastoral care
- safeguarding
- children are happy and enjoy coming to school

We believe that in general the report is an accurate reflection of where we are and the report does not highlight any issues that we were not aware of. We are an improving school, acknowledging there are still areas that need to be addressed and embedded to ensure we continue improving.

However there are a few inconsistencies in the report especially when the inspectors were dismissive of two teaching and learning reports carried out by the LEA and Diocese where they rated the teaching and learning good across the school. The inspectors go on to state that they (LEA and Diocese) 'know the school well'. Ofsted stated we have an 'overly optimistic' view of the teaching in school; however this is based on these two independent external moderations to verify what we are seeing on a daily basis.

The report criticised our tracking system. It is a similar system to many schools across the country including recently inspected schools whose systems were not criticised. Our system is simple, identifies gaps in the children's understanding and shows how much progress each individual child has made and what the next steps are for the children and teachers.

We have been working hard to raise standards across every aspect of school life and our results for July 2017 are predicted to be more in line with national expectations, which is a huge increase on previous years. We will continue to embed all the changes needed to ensure that children consistently meet the much higher standards. As with any independent report on our school we will implement the Ofsted action points and use it to further improve our school.

You are an important part of our school community as we strive to ensure our children have the best education possible. On Wednesday 7th June 2017 at 5.30 pm we will be holding a parents meeting to discuss this report. We will give you an overview of the findings, outline our next steps and share our action plan. Please do get involved as we can only do this with your support and prayers, which mean so much to us.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JG' or 'John Galvin'.

John Galvin
Headteacher

A handwritten signature in black ink, clearly legible as 'Sara Bennie'.

Sara Bennie
Chair of Governors