

Headteacher:
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Founded in 1717

BAINES SCHOOL

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26th April 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Please find attached to this email the letter from Ofsted about their recent remote monitoring visit to Baines School. As the letter states, the current timetable for routine Ofsted inspections is temporarily suspended so Ofsted are not carrying out full inspections. All schools who have been graded as 'Inadequate or have received two or more 'Requires Improvement' judgements are receiving an additional monitoring visit to ensure that they are providing an appropriate education in the current circumstances.

I am very pleased to share with you our letter from Ofsted. The monitoring inspection was a very positive experience for us. I am pleased that we received the desired outcome of:

"Leaders and those responsible for governance are taking effective action to provide education in the current circumstances". (Page 1)

The letter acknowledges a number of things we have been focussing on including:

- Ensuring that our curriculum is as close as possible to our usual curriculum, despite the pandemic
- We have continued the school improvement work throughout the pandemic, we have not slowed down working on our priorities..
- We are constantly revising the schemes of learning as a response to the lockdowns last year and this year to ensure that students knowledge builds moving forward.
- We have a focus on finding the learning gaps (and these are different for all children) and working hard to close those gaps, even though this will be a long-term priority.

It was wonderful to hear the feedback from the inspectors about the positive parental survey, and for the first time since before 2015, 100% of the parent/carer responses said they would recommend Baines School to others. I think this is a true testament of the journey we have been on together (and are still on) and how we are working well together as a community to support our children and continue the improvement journey as we create a school we are all proud to belong to. I want to thank you all for that positive feedback, it means such a lot to me.

We talked to Ofsted about the impact of the Covid pandemic and that it has brought about new and additional priorities, in addition to those from our last inspection. The inspector has included these in our letter:

- develop assessment methods which will help staff to identify gaps in pupils' reading knowledge more precisely. This is so staff can target support more effectively for those pupils



who find reading difficult.

- embed the actions they have recently begun to take to help pupils to get back on track with their learning across all subjects.

You will notice that improving reading is one of the targets, I hope you will all support your children in encouraging them to read. The target mentions children who find reading difficult. I would like to extend this to all children. If children do not read at the right level for their age, then this will slow down their progress in all subjects because they may not be able to understand the vocabulary used in examination questions. GCSE examinations are written in language that a sixteen-year-old should be able to read. If the children cannot understand the words, they may not be able to accurately answer the questions. Please help your child read, twenty minutes per day really will make all the difference.

Please also find attached to this email a letter from Edwina Grant OBE, Executive Director of Education and Children's Services in Lancashire. It was lovely to receive this letter and important I share this with you as we are all part of the Baines community working together.

Thank you again for your support,

Yours faithfully



Mrs A Chapman
Headteacher

