THOMAS WILLINGALE SCHOOL AND NURSERY

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Headteacher: Miss T. Phillips B.A. (Hons.), PGCE

6/6/23

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you will remember we had an Ofsted inspection at the end of April. It takes a while for the report to come back, but we now have ours to share with you.

Firstly, I want to express how proud we were of your children during the inspection. They were praised for their behaviour, keenness to talk and their manners, on numerous occasions.

I also want to acknowledge our wonderful team here, who work continuously hard to provide an exceptional quality of education and an outstanding experience for your children.

Reports written by inspectors are restricted to using 'certain' phrases and words. However, when they give feedback to us during the inspection, the language used is different. The opening line of our formal feedback meeting with Governors and Local Authority was:

*'I think that there is something **really, really special** here at this school, really special- particularly in the wider areas of behaviour and personal development'.*

During the Ofsted, the inspector read our School Self Evaluation and judgements. Although this was not a graded inspection and the school remains good, the inspector said he agreed with our SEF judgements. The suggested areas for improvement within the report were already ones we had identified on our own School development plan.

Our School Self-evaluation uses the current Ofsted Framework and judges the school in the following ways:

Quality of Education- Good

Behaviour and Attitudes- Outstanding

Personal development- Outstanding

Website: www.thomaswillingaleprimary.co.uk

Email address: admin@thomaswillingale.essex.sch.uk

Leadership and Management- Good/Outstanding

EYFS – Outstanding

As you will read from the short report, the inspector managed to be capture some of the essence of our school Here are a few lines to give you a feel:

- *At Thomas Willingale**, pupils thrive.***
- *The whole community works together to build a sustained, positive ethos in which pupils flourish.*
- *Leaders are ambitious for all pupils to learn what they need to be 'capable of anything'. This includes pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND).*
- *Leaders have established a clear policy and vision for how pupils should behave. As a result, there is very little disruption to learning. Behaviour is very positive. Pupils are notably polite and friendly.*
- *Pupils are proud of their school.*
- *Leaders are ambitious for pupils' personal development. Pupils are well prepared for their future steps.*
- *Leaders have put in place an effective curriculum. They consider carefully what they want pupils to know.*
- *Teachers deliver the curriculum well. They are trained effectively and have the subject knowledge they need. Teachers plan creative and well-designed learning activities.*
- *There is a strong culture of reading. Consequently, they learn to read quickly, fluently and with understanding. This includes pupils with SEND. This leads to older pupils being enthusiastic and ambitious readers.*
- *There is a vigilant culture of safeguarding. Leaders are tenacious with external support agencies if they need to ensure that pupils get help. Leaders and staff support vulnerable pupils and their families effectively.*

Thank you for your continued support, we received some lovely messages/emails during the inspection, and we were told by the inspector that you gave us fabulous feedback on the Parent Survey. These things really do help us through the harder days (such as the pressures of an Ofsted) as I am sure you will have seen in recent news; this pressure and stress can be catastrophic. I hope that that one day there will be a better way to hold us to account, one that offers us support in what is a very difficult and important job.

With Kind Regards,

Teresa Phillips

Headteacher

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