



Friday 8th July 2016

Dear Parents and carers,

Ofsted Inspection and Leadership at Wilberforce Primary

As we begin the final half term of the year, I wanted to update you on some changes underway at the school following the recent Ofsted inspection.

Despite everyone's best efforts during the inspection, Ofsted concluded that the school requires special measures. This is an outcome that we and the governors accept and had foreseen as likely in advance of the inspection due to short term issues currently faced by the school. Unfortunately our steps to begin addressing these challenges had not had time to make sufficient impact before the inspection took place.

I hope that you will take the opportunity to read the full inspection report which is enclosed with this letter as it sets out well the strengths and current weaknesses of the school and the inspectors' confidence that we will quickly overcome these.

It is our responsibility to ensure that every child at Wilberforce receives a strong and positive education and we are fully committed to taking the action needed to making Wilberforce a securely Good school.

The report is clear that, in important issues such as safeguarding, curriculum, Key Stage 1 and Early Years, the school is stronger. However, these successes are currently overshadowed by weaknesses in leadership, pupil attendance and behaviour. The inspectors concluded that the governors and United Learning have not shied away from beginning to address these issues and are confident that what we are putting in place will resolve these issues effectively.

Moving forward we are putting in place a series of changes to the running of the school. As you will know, earlier this year Ms Lesley Dolben joined the team at the school to provide some additional senior leadership support. The impact she has made since arriving has, we know, proved popular with staff and pupils alike and her involvement at the school will now increase as we have appointed her as Executive Principal.

At the same time, Mrs Sheppard has decided to stand down as Principal of the school. We would like to thank her for her leadership of Wilberforce over the past two years and wish her well for the future.

The staff restructuring currently underway will continue and the plans unveiled earlier this term for how the school will operate next year will proceed. We believe that these will help secure improvement effectively and address a number of the issues identified by Ofsted.

We appreciate that parents may have questions about the Ofsted report and Mr Edward Capewell, Chair of Governors, Ms Dolben and I would be very happy to speak with you at any time. We will be using the

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parents' forum event on Wednesday 13th July at 9 am, to outline our plans for the next academic year and all parents are very welcome to attend.

For those parents unable to attend the meeting on Wednesday, a summary from the meeting will be circulated and also placed onto the school website. All parents will also receive a summary of the school action plan and regular updates about the progress the school is making half termly.

Thank you for your continued support of Wilberforce Primary. Please be assured that the staff, governors and United Learning are all committed to addressing the challenges currently faced by the school and to putting in place the changes needed to best secure its future.

Yours Sincerely



Darran Lee
Director of Primary Education, United Learning