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Friday 5 July 2024

Outcome of Ofsted Inspection 11 and 12 June 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

We are very happy to be able to share with you the full report of Ofsted's Section 8 inspection of Court Lane Junior School on 11 and 12 June, in which the school retains its 'Good' grading. We have attached the report and uploaded it to our school website. The inspector was thorough, probing and challenging and we are pleased that he was able to see how hard we all work together to create a school where **"well-being is valued highly across the whole school community. As a result, pupils are flourishing in this forward-thinking and inclusive school"**.

In the full report you will note some of the following, which children and staff are especially proud of:

- We strive for balance in the school day! **"Playtimes are joyful and harmonious. Behaviour expectations are high, ensuring classrooms are purposeful and industrious"** and **"there is something for everyone"**
- How **"included and valued"** children feel. This features repeatedly, as does the **"nurturing pastoral care"** that our staff provide. Living by these principles means that **"Relationships are compassionate, and pupils are friendly and welcoming"**.
- Where **"Reading is at the heart of this thriving school"**, this **"prepares pupils well for secondary school and future learning"**. Our children love reading and are proud of their achievements.
- We have been able to close gaps from school closures. Some children in our school missed an entire Key Stage of their education and the **"expert help"** in place means that **"Pupils achieve in line with the national average in English and Mathematics, and disadvantaged pupils achieve well"**. Pupils with SEND are included as 'disadvantaged' but are referenced separately in the report, which reflects the above average level of complex needs within our school and how we work to ensure **"everybody can thrive and succeed"**.

You will find much more in the full report that encapsulates so much of what is special in our school. I would like to thank you for your support in helping us to achieve this, as well as our dedicated staff, ambitious governors and trustees, and most importantly, our incredible children!

What next?

Our 'Area for Improvement' is focused on what will take us to 'Outstanding' – which is securing **exceptional pupil achievement** at the end of KS2. Outcomes are already at the 'good' level and at one of the higher levels for our area and Trust. Our Reading outcomes are above national averages, including for disadvantaged children. We have been working on helping pupils to achieve as highly in Writing and Mathematics, which is noted in the report; **"The school is driving improvements to teaching to ensure that pupils make strong progress in every subject"**.

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The inspection came directly after our school development planning for 2024-25 and fortunately Ofsted's feedback matches what we had begun to put into place already:

- Embed improvements made this year in all subject areas so that they build on successes and lead to exceptional outcomes.
- Keep our curriculum collaboration partnerships within our Trust and specialist hubs in place. In September 2024 we had booked to move from Phonics focus to Writing focus and will stick with this!
- Use the extension to the school day of 10 minutes to improve Maths Mastery.
- Collaborate with our wider Trust and partner Infant school on new measures being introduced in the future, measuring progress from Year R to Year 6 instead of Year 2 to Year 6.
- Continue with our increased programme of community events, adapting the offer based on parent and carer feedback (such as moving our Maths workshop to the Autumn term).
- Work in partnership with our local authority to ensure that we can maintain the quality of provision for pupils with SEND that has been praised in our report amidst significant funding cuts, supported by our Trust partners.

Thank you again for your support and feedback throughout the year; we are always striving to create the best environment we can for our pupils. The inspector spoke to lots of children and how much they care about creating a school to be proud of shone through just as much as it did from the adults. Together we will continue to fulfil our vision **“to ‘believe, inspire and achieve’ with strong aspirations for all”**.

If you have any queries regarding the report, please do get in touch with our school office and we will do our best to help.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs L Flitton

Head Teacher, on behalf of the entire Court Lane Junior Team

A message from our Chair of Governors:

As you have read in this report, we have achieved an extremely positive result which demonstrates that the school and its pupils stand on a solid foundation ready now to explore further. This will allow us all to move forward and develop that love of learning we all need if we are to make our way in an ever-changing world. Not only do we need scientists, historians, mathematicians, and the like, but we also need the younger generation to be able to love to learn and to able to adapt, as necessary no matter who they are.

My thanks go to the staff, the pupils and yourselves for your continued overall support, which undoubtedly will aid your children to succeed, not only now but in their future.

Glynis Alexander

Chair of Governors, Court Lane Academies

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