



21st November 2024

Dear Parents,

As you know, we recently had an OFSTED inspection at the school. I am pleased to share their report with you which will be published next week. We are very proud of all the children who are, as the inspector found, keen learners, respectful and by Year 6 achieve well.

The high academic standards at St Monica's are well established and it was good that he noted our ambitious curriculum;

“Leaders are ambitious for their pupils. They expect them to become fluent readers, capable mathematicians and to use advanced vocabulary.”

“The school has an ambitious curriculum in place for pupils. They learn and remember the curriculum well across many subjects. This is because teachers take the time to remind pupils of their prior learning”.

A successful school can only achieve great things with a lot of hard work from the staff and support from the governing body. I would therefore like to formally thank them all for all that they do in making St Monica's a great school for our children to attend, with special thanks to our great headteacher for her continuing hard work and outstanding leadership.

We are committed to retaining this high standard and will address the two areas the inspector identified as areas which could improve.

As he noted, we have very high expectations of the children and expect all the children to meet this standard at all times. Education is not just about the academic, but teaching children how to conduct themselves, while learning and at play.

“In the classroom pupils behave with maturity and focus on their learning. They are calm and attentive, following the instructions of adults. This starts in the early years, where pupils learn and enjoy the routine of the day. It is rare to see lessons disrupted and the clear high expectations of staff are well understood by pupils. Outside of lessons pupils usually play well together and make the most of activities that the school arranges”

We have already commissioned an independent review of the playground and this was completed by a School Improvement Advisor on 6th November. From this, we have some suggested action points about zones and activities for the children to ensure that their behaviour is as exemplary outside as it is inside. We look forward to inviting the parents to our lunchtime OPAL activities later this year so that you can see for yourselves the fun they are having.

Any inspection is only a snapshot in time and the inspector could only fit in so much in two days. One area which he fed back verbally to us, but didn't make it into the main body of the report, was the particularly nurturing behaviours of the older children to the younger children especially on the playground. He was so impressed by this and said it was well embedded.

I hope you all take the time to read the report in full (attached). The report will then be uploaded onto our school website, followed by the Ofsted website in about a week's time.

With best wishes,

Tricia Alder

Chair of Governors.