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Tuesday 21st June 2022.

Dear Parents,

I write to you with the Ofsted report attached, following the inspectors' visit in early May. I would ask you to read the report first before reading my letter, as it will provide greater context.

The senior leadership, staff and I believe this is a fair and realistic assessment of where the school is today. A greatly amended new Ofsted framework, alongside an exact rather than a best fit approach, has made the grade of outstanding extremely challenging for schools to achieve.

We are immensely proud of the two areas that have been graded outstanding: 'Behaviour and Attitudes' and 'Personal Development'. Two incredibly significant areas within a primary school and especially with the immense disruption created by COVID over the past two years. There are numerous other strengths within the report that we are proud of, reflected by comments such as 'the school environment is somewhere where pupils can thrive.' You will note and recognise the school as it is described throughout the report with words such as 'high expectations', 'exemplary', 'mature', 'hard working' and 'exceptional'

Whilst frustratingly not published as part of the process, we were also privy to other positive feedback that does not appear in what is a limited final report, particularly around our 'core' subjects of English, maths and science. We understand the feedback from the pupil and staff surveys was also incredibly strong.

To give you some context about the inspection process. Three inspectors came for two days and spent a considerable amount of time speaking to pupils and staff. Any evaluation into the 'Quality of Education', the main area assessed, occurs through 'deep dives'. On day one these focused primarily on the following areas - early reading, phonics, maths, geography and design technology and on Day 2 this shifted to a selection of foundation subjects. There were a range of extensive meetings with senior leaders, lesson observations, and conversations with children, staff and governors.

The new Ofsted framework makes no comment on school outcomes i.e. KS2 SATs results and the other assessment points across the school. This played a significant part in the previous frameworks, however the school SATs results will still be widely shared with parents.

The new framework has shifted the focus to a greater extent onto all foundation subjects particularly focusing on the progression and sequencing throughout a child's time at primary school. This has been a significant task in every school and Sheen Mount was not able to ensure all areas were 'outstanding' by the time of the inspection. Nevertheless, everyone in the school is determined to build on the successes outlined in the report. You will note the teaching and learning has not been identified as an area for development. Please see the FAQ's for further questions around this.

Looking to the future, everyone in the school has a continued drive to succeed. We permeate high expectations in all that we do and strive to do our very best for the children at Sheen Mount. On a personal level I came back to Richmond borough to work in an outstanding school. I previously worked in an outstanding and equally high-achieving school in the borough as a Deputy-Headteacher. I strongly desire for the school to be outstanding in all areas. This outlook and drive for success exists within the school and I feel very confident we can accomplish this with our team. There are so many 'outstanding' elements within the school in a variety of areas and the foundations are incredibly strong. Not least is our connection with you, our parents. You can see the feedback from 'parent view' was incredibly strong with significant numbers contributing to the survey.

<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/parent-view-results/survey/result/2184/12>

Ofsted absolutely has its place in school accountability, however the school's drive for continuous improvement remains strong regardless of this. We firmly believe in this concept to enable us to do the best we possibly can, for each and every child. Some of the real strengths credited in this report, we had already identified pre-Ofsted and planned how we could improve them even further.

There is far more to understand about the Ofsted process than just the headline words and I would urge you in the first instance to read the report itself and the FAQ's. We will also be holding a meeting for parents on Friday 24th June at 9.05am, which I would encourage anyone who has questions or wishes to make comments to attend. In this way everyone can benefit from the questions and answers. There will be a short presentation, followed by the opportunity to ask questions of myself and the Chair of Governors. A summary of the meeting will be published along with the presentation, for those that can't attend. After this I will then be happy to have any follow-up one to one conversations that parents may require.

Please also find attached a letter from the Chair of Governors, the FAQ's and a letter we will share with the children.

The team and I look forward to continuing to deliver and evolve, providing your children with the best possible start in life with their primary education.

Best wishes

Tom Holmes

Headteacher