Thomas Bullock Church of England Primary and Nursery Academy
"Let your light shine" Matthew 5:14-16
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29th April 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to share the outcome of our recent Ofsted inspection, which took place on 1st and 2nd April 2025.

This was an ungraded (Section 8) inspection, designed to assess whether our school, previously rated 'Good', continues to meet that standard. However, the feedback we received went far beyond that. The Ofsted Inspectors found clear evidence of significant improvement in all areas since our last full inspection and shared that, had this been a graded inspection, we would likely have been judged Outstanding in every area. What an incredible achievement!

This outstanding outcome reflects the tremendous hard work, dedication, and care shown by our staff, pupils, governors, and you—our families. It is a true testament to how well we know our school and how we continually work together to make it a place where every child can thrive.

The inspection was thorough and comprehensive. Inspectors observed lessons, spoke with children and staff, reviewed pupils' work, and examined every aspect of school life, from teaching and behaviour to leadership and pastoral care. What they saw was a school that is thriving, and this was clearly reflected in their positive comments.

Here are just a few of the highlights from the report:

- "Pupils receive a top-class education."
- "They delight in coming to school because the warm and caring environment provides a safe space for them to thrive and flourish."
- "By the time pupils leave at the end of Year 6, they depart as well-rounded, compassionate, and knowledgeable young people."
- "Adults set the highest standards for pupils, who live up to these expectations."
- "Classrooms are vibrant, happy places," and pupils show "very positive attitudes to their learning."
- "Reading is taught exceptionally well. Pupils become accurate and confident readers," and those who need support "catch up quickly."
- "Attendance is very high," and the school's approach to any low attendance is "extremely effective."
- "Staff are extremely proud to work at the school," and benefit from "high-quality training."
- "Leaders take decisions in the very best interests of pupils. Pupils sit at the heart of all the school does."

Our Nursery and Reception provision was also highly praised, with His Majesty's Inspectors noting that the emotional and care needs of our youngest pupils are met "extremely well."

Perhaps the comment that best captures our shared vision is this:

"Pupils benefit enormously from a wide range of rich opportunities, where they are encouraged to 'let their light shine' in everything they do."

Because of the significant improvements recognised during this visit, Ofsted has confirmed that our next inspection will be a full graded (Section 5) inspection and should take place within the next 12 months. This will provide a fantastic opportunity to formally assess whether our school should now be judged Outstanding—something we look forward to with great hope and anticipation.

We are excited to take this next step with confidence and humility. Whether in the nurturing setting of our Nursery or as our Year 6 pupils prepare for their next journey, the values of kindness, ambition, and excellence shine through in every part of our school.

A copy of the full Ofsted report is available here https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50275479.

I hope you feel as proud of it as we do. Thank you, as always, for your continued support. You are an integral part of our school family, and together, we will continue to help every child let their light shine. I am incredibly blessed to be the Headteacher of such a wonderful school.

With warmest regards,

Shannon O'Sullivan
Executive Headteacher