

Rivington Foundation Primary School



*Horrobin Lane, Rivington, Horwich, Bolton, BL6 7SE
Tel: (01204) 696951 Headteacher: Mrs S E Annette BA (QTS)*

Monday 10th February 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

A copy of our most recent Ofsted report is now available on the school website and on the Ofsted site from the 12th February.

It is very pleasing to read such positive things about our school and I am very happy with the conclusions the inspectors came to after spending two days in school. It is testament to the skills of the inspectors that they were able, in a relatively short time, to recognise the many things that we are so proud of here at Rivington and to sum up our school so succinctly.

It would be an entirely reasonable question to ask why I am so pleased when the overall judgement has moved from Outstanding to Good since the previous inspection – we are still Outstanding in EYFS. The answer to that is that from last September a new Ofsted framework was put into place that has moved the goalposts considerably, with the intention of making it far harder to gain the top grades. My own thoughts are that this is entirely the right thing to do. Schools need to be challenged and it is quite right that the standards demanded from us are as high as they can be.

The lead inspector told me at the conclusion of the inspection that we were within touching distance of the new top grades in a number of the categories and it is my intention to continue to drive improvements so that our school continues to offer the very best we can for the children in our care.

The opening of the report recognises the length of time between our previous and last inspection (9 years) and points out that changes could have occurred at any point during this time.

Please note that the new reports are not allowed to be longer than 3 pages in length and are written for a nine-year old to read. Our school advisor, who was present at the feedback from the HMI, remarked on the fact that we received extremely positive feedback and that it is sad that the new report format will not fully capture the wonderful things that he said about our school.

There are many comments that I could pick out to highlight how proud we are, but I do not wish to repeat what is written in the report – the words speak for themselves. However I would like to draw your attention to what the inspectors said really stood out for them and that is the ethos and atmosphere within the school. This is nothing that can be manufactured or prepared for

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when the inspectors call – it is something that takes years to develop and will only be in place when all members of the staff are pulling in the same direction with the same expectations.

I am eager and keen to meet the challenges ahead and will do everything in my power to continue to raise attainment, as will my staff. Underpinning that, however, is something less tangible – the values we try and teach the children, the way they treat each other, the way they behave both in class and out – ultimately the way we want them to develop as members of a community where respect and care are paramount. Having this surely makes us better placed to address the areas we can get even better at, as does having as a committed and skilful staff as I do here.

I feel great satisfaction as we head off next week for half-term that we are doing everything we can to support and guide your most prized possessions – your children – and this has been recognised in such a positive report.

I would like to thank all parents/carers who support our work so well because without that partnership children would not flourish as they do.

Best wishes,

Sarah Annette

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