



Lowther

We love learning at Lowther

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

We hope your start to 2023 has begun happily. Our weekly Lowther newsletter this time out is for us to take the opportunity to write to you briefly about our Ofsted inspection which happened this week.

As the Ofsted framework changed significantly in 2021 we thought it helpful to briefly re-explain the process and how this new framework actually operates.

Our previous inspection was back in July 2017 where we received a good judgement. (note: A school judged 'Good' or 'Outstanding' at its most recent inspection will normally receive an inspection approximately every 4 years).

Our inspection this week was under this new framework and therefore classed as an "ungraded inspection" which is to confirm that the school remains 'Good'. The inspection was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005. Ofsted do not give graded judgements on an ungraded inspection. However, if they find some evidence that a school would now be better than it was, or that standards may be declining, they will carry out a full inspection with graded judgements at a later date. This is usually 1-2 years after the section 8 inspection.

And now to the actual inspection.

Our inspector conducted a full review of all the different aspects of school. He conducted in depth (known as deep dives) analysis of 3 specific curriculum areas, looked at all the other curriculum areas, surveyed parents, staff and children. He spoke to governors, children, senior leaders and a whole range of other adults that work at the school. He looked at children's books and extensively observed their learning in the classroom. He also looked at other aspects of school life such as safety, personal development, pupil behaviour and pastoral support. It was a thorough, and challenging process.

We joined the inspector during all of his activities and both Mr Ripley and I thought the **children were absolutely incredible** (as we expected!) and their behaviours and attitudes to learning and to school were first class in every single room from Nursery through to Year 6. We are so proud of them.

We would also like to say a huge thank you all of you for the incredible feedback you gave the inspector. Your amazing support of the school was there for all to see. Our parent community is brilliant.

Finally, we'd also like to give a special mention to our awesome staff team who work tirelessly to provide your children with a first class school experience. They were all brilliant throughout the inspection.

We have not yet have any access to the content of the final report but we do know it will be published on the Ofsted website in approximately 6 weeks time. We will of course notify parents of this and share the report with you all. We will also host a presentation of the report to share with you the findings and to answer any questions you may have. We will share the date for that presentation once we have the report.

We hope you find this information useful. Thanks again for everything you do to support the Lowther School Family. With much thanks and appreciation,

Mark and Alastair