



**Bishop Wood C of E Junior School**

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Mrs. L.A.Hardman, Headteacher

February 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

### OFSTED INSPECTION REPORT

I am very pleased to be able to send you a copy of the recent OFSTED inspection report. We are pleased with the outcomes as I hope you will be. It was an extremely rigorous process, undertaken by HMI, which accurately reflected our own self-evaluation procedures.

The main issue raised for improvement relates to attendance, which is not completely in our control. We need parental support to improve this. Although the current figure for overall school attendance for all pupils is at a broadly acceptable level, it is poor for certain groups of children in the school. You will know if there is concern about your child's attendance because I will have written to you to offer support and help. If your child's absence is persistent and a pattern is forming I will have arranged for the involvement of the Hertfordshire Attendance Improvement Officer. I will have to do this on a more frequent basis now with a wider range of families and we will need to identify more regular incentives to serve as a reward to the children. We will talk to the pupils to ascertain their views on what they would like to see in place. It is important for all of our parents to be aware that 95% attendance and above, over the year, is considered to be acceptable by OFSTED. What that means is that a child can only have 7 school days absence over a year before it slips below the acceptable level. I know this is extremely difficult when your child is ill. Many of you are very honest if you take your children out on a holiday during term time but you do need to be aware that we cannot authorise this absence and it does not help the overall attendance figures for the school. If a child has more than 7 days school absence they are listed by DFE and classified as persistent absentees and the reasons for their absence are discussed during an inspection and they will want to know what action has been taken to improve attendance. Under the current OFSTED framework, however well a school is performing in other aspects of school life, it cannot be classified as outstanding if the attendance is not outstanding too.

We will be writing a plan to address the couple of points raised in the report to accompany the existing improvement plan which is on the school website and I will ensure that you are aware of it when it has been completed.

The staff and I would like to thank you all for your great support and encouragement at what was a very challenging time and we are hugely appreciative to our parents for the very positive feedback. All of your comments and texts were shared with us during the inspection. Your feedback helps us to do a better job and we are very appreciative of the care you took with this.

With kindest regards,

Mrs L.A. Hardman

Headteacher

