

Inspire ~ Nurture ~ Flourish

Dear all,

Friday 18th March 2022

Our OFSTED report has now been published. The school was inspected by OFSTED under Section 5 on the 2nd and 3rd February 2022 and received an overall grading of good. While we had hoped to retain our outstanding grade, the school was last inspected 14 years ago under a previous inspection framework. It is important to understand that the new inspection framework is a very different framework to the one followed in 2007. Along with a new framework, the report is written in a new style, with much less detail and jargon, so please take this into account when reading it.

When looking at our new judgement, Ofsted has stated publicly its aim to sharply reduce the number of schools rated outstanding across the country, from 20% down to 1 or 2%. Since last autumn, we have tallied 68 previously "outstanding" schools who were inspected; only 16% of them retained that judgement, and many failed to even achieve a "good" rating. Against this backdrop achieving a solidly "good" rating in the new framework, as we have done, is no mean feat.

The inspection team carried out deep dives in early reading, maths and geography. For each deep dive inspectors met with subject leaders, looked at curriculum plans, visited a sample of lessons, held discussions with teachers, spoke to pupils, looked at pupils' work. The lead inspector listened to pupils read. Inspectors also looked at curriculum plans in music and PSHE and visited a music lesson and choir practice. Inspectors observed pupils' behaviour at break and lunch times and talked to pupils about behaviour, bullying and well being. Inspectors considered information relating to safeguarding and spoke to staff and pupils. Inspectors spoke to parents outside the school as well as evaluating responses to Ofsted's online surveys.

We all think very highly of Belmont and our report is a reflection of the hard work by everyone, staff, governors, parents and of course pupils. We know Belmont is indeed a very good school and we feel that we have a shared determination to continue to build on our successes to strive to provide the very best quality of education possible. We could not have achieved this without your support and we would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you, your fantastic children and our dedicated staff for their hard work and commitment, which has helped to make Belmont such an amazing place to learn, work and succeed.

'Pupils are happy at this caring school. The school's friendly atmosphere nurtures pupils who are polite, kind and respectful to one another and to adults.'

Inevitably, we have a couple of areas to develop. These will be a focus in our development plans for the summer and autumn terms.

We are extremely proud of everything that we have been able to achieve here at Belmont over the last few years despite a pandemic. We look forward to continuing to build on all that is unique and special about our school.

Please do get in touch if you have any questions you would like to ask about our report.

Best wishes,
Elaine Lacey



Head Teacher

An additional note from the Governing Body:

As you know, Belmont Primary School has now completed its Ofsted inspection and has been rated as a Good school. As Belmont's Governing Body we feel that this is an outstanding endorsement of the work of the headteacher, Mrs Lacey, and her staff. It is also a real testament to the children, because it reflects the teaching and learning at the school, and how BPS is serving both education and personal development needs. It is also an opportunity for the school to build for the future and strive for higher goals.

The report was compiled after 2 days of meticulous investigations last month, which involved speaking to the children, parents, staff and governors. Ofsted has praised the level of teaching, and particularly highlighted the reading and phonics development. It also was very positive about the personal development of the children, citing the number of extra-curricular activities offered. And it suggested some themes where more can be done in targeted assessment and better communication.

As governors we are naturally disappointed that we have missed out on retaining our previous outstanding rating, but overall we feel the report is fair and balanced and it heartily endorses the care, professionalism and excellence that BPS has become renowned for.

We encourage you to read the report for yourselves. As governors, we welcome any feedback you may have.

Signed on behalf of the Belmont Governing Body,

Gary Crichlow



Chair of Governors

