Thursday 14th June 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is with a great deal of pride that I am able to send you a copy of the front pages of the Ofsted report from our inspection on the 22nd and 23rd of May 2018. Full copies are available from the school office or can be read online from early next week. A link will be placed upon the school website.

The grades that can be awarded are Outstanding, Good, Requires Improvement or Inadequate. As many of you will know, the school has been on a journey from Inadequate (November 2013) to Requires Improvement (May 2015) and now the school is officially a ‘Good’ school; in fact the inspectors decided that ‘The school’s work to promote pupils’ personal development and welfare is outstanding.’ This, coupled with the Outstanding grade we received in the Church school inspection last June, provides validation for all the hard work and dedication that so many people have put into Great Marsden in the last few years.

It was a tough two days but, as per usual, the staff and children were magnificent. The inspectors saw the progress and high standards in learning and behaviour that I see every day. They commented upon the supportive nature of the parents and how you value the care and education the school provides. Thank you to everyone who spoke to the inspectors or completed the on-line questionnaire. Our Governing Body’s and Multi Academy Trust’s work goes mostly unseen, but their in depth knowledge of the school and their passion to keep improving all aspects shone through.

There are many, many fantastic quotes from the full report, here are just a few:

Classrooms are lively, exciting places where teachers present activities in interesting ways. Relationships between adults and pupils are particularly strong and contribute greatly to good learning and progress. Pupils want to succeed because they enjoy what they are doing.

Pupils are self-confident and self-assured.

The school is a calm and orderly environment.

Pupils show positive attitudes to learning and work cooperatively in most lessons. They value each other’s points of view and help one another with their work. They listen to their peers and to adults and show consideration for views that may be different from their own.

Current pupils’ work in books, in all year groups, shows that pupils across the school are making good progress in reading, writing and mathematics.

Reading is a strength of the school. The younger pupils enjoy their phonics sessions and are achieving in line with the expected standard. Across the school, pupils read regularly and enthusiastically.

Our ‘Good’ judgement will not bring a hint of complacency and we continue to share a constant desire for improvement. We have a detailed development plan in place to map growth throughout the school and the areas identified as next steps for development have already been highlighted on our academy development plan. I have every confidence that we have the capacity and drive to continue to strive towards providing an outstanding education for all the pupils in our school.

In conclusion, all that remains to say is that I am immensely proud of the inspection outcome and the efforts of everyone who contributes daily to our high quality provision here at Great Marsden St. John’s.

With kind regards



Mrs M Underwood.