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*Headteacher: Mr S Parker* ***‘Growing Together. Empowered to be more’***

**OFSTED REPORT: MAY 2023**

Dear Parents and Carers,

*‘It is with great pride that we write this letter to you on behalf of all of the Urmston Primary School staff. Clearly, this is not because of the judgement that Ofsted has given our school, but because our school is more than just an Ofsted grading.’*

The above is from our letter that accompanied our report back in 2020 – the same message applies this time, although as you can see from the report attached, with a slightly different outcome.

We’ll be completely honest with you all (as we were back in 2020)…the report is a little underwhelming. OFSTED has been in the news a lot over the last few months, with many saying that there need to be some changes. OFSTED say that the reports are meant for parents – so that they can make more informed decisions about the school they choose for their children. However, there is very little room for any nuance within the reports and for that reason, perhaps it doesn’t fulfil its remit in this sense.

We have to mention that the overall conduct of the inspection was really positive and was led with fairness, honesty and openness from the lead inspector right from the start. The feedback that Mrs Marsland, school governors and we received from the inspectors was great to hear, but they did warn that the report would not be so thorough as the feedback, and that has turned out to be the case. We said after the last inspection that the report did not reflect the journey that our school was on following our amalgamation, and whilst this report does acknowledge how that journey has continued at pace, it is apparent that there’s no room to go into any great depth on where we are now as a school.

It remains the case that the most important thing is that you all have faith in the job that we are doing and that you trust that we will continue to do the very best for your children, regardless of what people say who come in and see our school for two days, once every three or four years. We can assure you that our staff are dedicated and professional enough to do so.

We are extremely proud to lead such a dedicated group of people who care so much about the children in their care and doing what is right by them, and we are far happier about the feedback that we received from you guys on ParentView, than that of OFSTED (although we’d be lying if we said we didn’t appreciate and value that too). Of course, we know that we’ll continue to get some things wrong, but trust that we have positive enough relationships with you all now to have confidence that when you feel that we do, you’ll let us know! ;-)

OFSTED made a number of points in the feedback given to us that we’ll be working on moving forwards, as we did last time, and we are very much looking forward to working with you on improving our school in the coming months and years.

Yours sincerely,

***Simon Parker Derek Brown***

Headteacher Chair of Governors