



The Hills Academy

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Headteacher: Mrs Moya Whitehead

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Dear Parents and Carers

Firstly, a massive thank you for all the support you gave the staff during the recent Ofsted Inspection; the kindness shown meant a lot to us all.

The Inspection team worked well with staff and spoke to lots of children. They were highly complimentary of our ethos, values, Early Years provision, SEN provision, inclusion of all pupils, culture of Safeguarding and the behaviour of pupils. The team also saw strong teaching, strong co-operation between pupils, high quality of work in books, a great extra-curricular offer; they commented on the 'buzz' around pupil learning.

The area for development they identified is around some curriculum planning. The new Ofsted model from September 2019 has a focus on curriculum; one way of looking at it, is this is a more 'Secondary like' approach with all subjects taught distinctly rather than as we do with some subjects within a 'topic'.

The school had already identified that we need to move away from 'topic' learning and teach subjects separately to ensure that children are best prepared for their Secondary education. We have rolled this out for most subjects over the last year and are working on the rest being ready for the academic year 2020/21. This remains the plan and therefore from September 2020 we will not have the current 'topics' that are used across the school. We will however continue to have a rich variety of extra activities to support pupil learning and engagement, as well as get parents into school too.

The report confirms that we are a 'good' school and will be published on the Ofsted website on Monday. I'm taking the opportunity to post it on the school Website today, ahead of publication, and really encourage you to read the whole document (it's not too long). Feel free to email me if you have any questions or need clarification on any points.

headteacher@thehillsacademy.co.uk

Once again thank you so much for your continued support of our lovely school, I was immensely proud of the whole school community during the process of our Inspection and relish the challenge of developing our improved rich curriculum amongst the many other exciting plans we have.

Yours faithfully

Moya Whitehead