

Thursday 21st May 2020



Dear Parent / Carer,

Although this seems a lifetime ago now, you may remember that not long before lockdown, school were inspected by Ofsted. In line with the strict guidelines, we are unable to share with you what the outcome of the inspection is until it has been quality assured by Ofsted and we receive our final report. This usually takes around 3-4 weeks maximum, however the current situation has slowed this down considerably. Thankfully, our report did not get lost in the system and we received the final report today, which I am pleased to be able to share with you.

We are delighted that Ofsted recognised all the hard work that goes on at Russell Hall and that as a school we retained our judgement of Good.

In September 2019, there were significant changes made to the way that schools were being inspected and the criteria that Ofsted were inspecting against. As such, we were in the first wave of schools being inspected under this new framework. This makes us even more proud to know that Ofsted were in complete agreement about what school leaders judged to be the strengths and areas for development at Russell Hall. They felt that we really knew our school well.

They spoke particularly about our 'high expectations' and 'well-developed curriculum', indeed they note that the wider curriculum is a strength of the school.

I am extremely proud of the team of staff at Russell Hall who have worked so hard to develop a high quality curriculum for your children and who continue to refine their skills and the programmes of study that they deliver.

We are equally proud of your amazing children who impressed the inspector with their conduct, enthusiasm and engagement in learning.

The inspector identified some areas of Science as areas for us to develop, which matches what we are working on in our School Development Plan. As such we felt that the inspector gained a reassuringly fair picture of our school and this gives us great confidence and encouragement to continue with the work that we are doing in the strive to constantly improve our offer for your children.

I hope that this gives you something to make you smile a little in the midst of this difficult time, as it has done for me.

As always, I thank you for your continued support and dedication to Russell Hall Primary School.

Kindest Regards

Andrea Grist