

Stukeley Meadows Primary School

Wertheim Way
Huntingdon
Cambridgeshire
PE29 6UH

Care

Create

Compete

Collaborate



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STUKELEY MEADOWS JANUARY 2016 OFSTED REPORT

Dear Stukeley Parent/Carer,

I am delighted to finally present a copy of last month's Ofsted report – in line with our own judgements, the inspectors deemed us to be a 'good' school overall with an even better Foundation Stage! This is testament to two years of exceptionally hard work from the entire Stukeley team.

The school was last judged 'good' by Ofsted in September 2003, then followed two 'satisfactory' ratings sandwiching a serious 'Notice to Improve' judgement in 2010. Most recently, in December 2013, we were rated as a school that 'Required Improvement' – in many ways we were fortunate to achieve even this judgement due to the poor end of year results (and progress throughout) and a historic legacy of low expectations. The anticipated further drop in attainment in July 2014 triggered significant concerns from the Local Authority and we were identified as being extremely vulnerable. However, with our renowned Stukeley resolve and the confidence to make our own decisions (and not be pressured by external sources), we rebranded the school and launched our own strategies to succeed. The absolute key to this was the development of a new leadership structure – something that continues to move from strength to strength. The Governing Body of the school positively sustained their support/challenge approach across this period – this is rightly identified in the report. While some of the external support has been effective, it should be noted that we have self-driven the vast majority of the positive changes. Our Foundation Stage for example, was last formally supported by the Local Authority in January 2014. Since then, we have pioneered our own development.

Although the report primarily, and very much typically, focuses on the key outcomes for all primary children, we take pride in the fact that Stukeley offers so very much more. The inspection team, with their time constraints, could barely scratch the surface of the extent of our engagement with families (inc. FOSMS), range of extra-curricular provision, creative communication and outdoor resources and opportunities.

We fully acknowledge the areas for development. While some of these stem from observations the inspectors made on the two days (and may not have been consistent with how Stukeley typically does things), we have already created action plans to specifically target these areas. As with the many other changes over the previous three years, we will communicate these out where appropriate. We are hugely excited about the school's immediate and longer-term future – we have much to consolidate and many more creative risks to take in the pursuit of success! This begins, with no hesitation, with our current Year Six cohort – they are on track to have made good progress throughout their time at Stukeley but the raised test expectations will provide a more-than-significant challenge!

I'll end with considerable thanks to the entire Stukeley family... To Miss Barry, Mrs Page and Mrs Stephens who, as the three Assistant Heads, have been at the very forefront of raising expectations, embedding the school values and ensuring consistency across the school. Crucially, they have done so in the right spirit and with the children's very best interests at heart. To all Stukeley staff (whether teaching, supporting learning or office-based) for their relentless pursuits to make teaching as effective, and learning as fun, as possible. To the Governors for their continued challenge and guidance, particularly in terms of our investment in doing things the 'Stukeley way'. To you, the families, for your continued support and feedback (both positive and otherwise) that motivates us to keep getting better and better. And finally, to our wonderful Stukeley children who, for the very most part, keep us grounded in an increasingly challenging educational climate – their smiles, warmth and sense of fun really do make it all worth it!

Kind Regards,

James Singleterry
Head Teacher

There will be an opportunity to discuss the report at this Friday's 'Get Together' at 10am

Head Teacher: James Singleterry Assistant Head Teachers: Niki Barry, Karen Page, Rachel Stephens School Business Manager: Lynne Hardie

