



St Augustine's Catholic Primary School

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13th December 2013

Dear Parents and Carers

I wanted to update you on the activity and progress in the school following last summer's Ofsted Inspection and October's follow-up visit by HM Inspector.

You may recall that I wrote to you on 22 July with Ofsted's inspection report, recording their judgement that our school 'requires improvement', and again on 25 October after the positive and encouraging visit by HMI, enclosing his letter to Mrs Warren. These letters and papers are available on the school website, or in hard copy via the office.

We also held well-attended briefing meetings on 30 September, where senior staff and governors gave our reaction to the Ofsted judgement, and sketched out our plan to make sure the school rapidly returns to 'good' status. We also talked about our longer term vision that will see us reach 'outstanding' – the only standard we believe our children deserve.

At the briefing meetings I promised to share our plan in more detail, and report on our progress. Attached to this letter is a report on our progress since October (term 2 - the first period since HMI reviewed our draft plan, and gave it positive feedback) and our plans for term 3 (January – February half term).

Under the inspection regime, HMI works with us and with colleagues from the local education authority to ensure that we are on track to achieve a 'good' judgement within 2 years. There is much to do to achieve this. We are focusing very closely on the key areas highlighted by the inspectors and by HMI in October. We are organising our work and monitoring our progress, by setting a number of 'spotlights for improvement' for each term – particular areas of focus for the school and the team. Against each spotlight, we are setting ourselves some demanding milestones and are making sure we understand the impact that achieving each milestone is having on the children.

The attached report for term 2 shows some excellent news already. You will see that the team has made extremely impressive progress on the quality and consistency of teaching in the school. **The percentage of teaching now judged as "good" or better is 77%.** In July, at the time of the inspection, it was just 35%. This is the result of a significant investment in training and mentoring, but above all some incredibly hard work by our dedicated staff. I want to record the Governing

Body's thanks and appreciation to them for this achievement. I hope that you will want to join us in applauding this impressive effort, which is a clear signal of their determination to improve the education of our children.

Other important successes this term include:

- We have developed and evolved our approach to homework, in response to your feedback. The latest version of our homework policy was issued with last week's newsletter. Mrs Warren and the governors continue to value your feedback in this area in particular.
- We have improved the way we set individual targets for all our children, making sure the most able are suitably stretched, and that parents / carers and children are clear how much progress is expected over the year. We have also worked on how we communicate targets to children, and to you. You should have been given target sheets and other information at consultation evenings earlier in the term.

Of course the most important thing is the progress our children are making. The children have been assessed recently and we will be analysing this in the last few days of this term. We will report back to you in January.

As well as celebrating our progress, I wanted also to share with you our spotlights for next term:

- Continuing coaching and mentoring to support teachers
- Improve marking to move children's learning on
- Improve weekly lesson planning for English and Maths
- Give children the skills and tools to work more independently

I will report on progress against these milestones towards the end of next term. We are also expecting a further visit from HMI in early February, and of course I will share his findings with you.

If you would like to discuss any of this further, please make an appointment to come and see Mrs Warren.

Finally, a reminder of the importance of your views and feedback on the school. One good way to contribute is by completing Ofsted's online ParentView questionnaire. There is a link on the school website. My thanks to those of you, who have already responded.

The governors and staff remain focused on improving the school. Much hard work remains, but I hope that you will share my sense of a positive start.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

[Mark Dennison](#)

Mark Dennison
Chair of Governors