

Inspire – Grow - Achieve



Inspiring Futures
Through Learning

2nd November 2021

Ofsted Inspection Report

Dear Parents and Carers,

As I am sure you are aware, Heronshaw school was inspected by Ofsted on 14th and 15th September. The report has now been published by Ofsted and is available for you to read via our school website. I am incredibly proud of the incredible, hard work of all staff at Heronshaw and it is with pleasure that I can announce that the school remains **outstanding**.

This school inspection provided an opportunity to demonstrate what Heronshaw is achieving. For Heronshaw this inspection was very much about discussing and sharing the successes of the last few years. The pandemic and the multiple bubble closures challenged and changed our thinking on education, and we adapted and engaged with pupils and families in a new way. Much of this led to the development of our social media and online presence and notably our YouTube channel with over 40,000 views to date.

The inspection took place in the second week of the term, straight after the summer holidays with some pupils experiencing only their sixth day in school. Even though many children were new to school, or new to their key stage, they were able to articulate what being part of the school community meant to them.

During the two-day inspection there were an overwhelming number of positives that we identified together across the school, in particular the relentless commitment to safeguarding the children. The Heronshaw values that underpin everything that we do here were noted along with the careful and considered responses that staff give to our most vulnerable children. It is no surprise to me that the positive and nurturing ethos was highlighted as a strength and this is very much what Heronshaw is all about. Many of our core Heronshaw values were demonstrated throughout the inspection and we will continue to promote and celebrate these.

The teaching of phonics and reading was very highly praised and although not directly commented on in the report, the high-quality remote teaching and provision throughout and post-pandemic was commended. The children made exceptional progress in phonics despite school closures and this was clearly evidenced. The inspector observed high quality teaching of reading and listened to readers along with school staff, observing how carefully books are matched to children's phonic ability.

The teaching of maths and science was observed across the school, with clear progression and steps to success identified. The strong subject knowledge shown by staff was evident along with a real sense of excitement to learn. Heronshaw pupils develop a strong understanding of maths during their time at our school and they talk about their love of learning maths.

During the inspection two non-core subjects were identified as focus areas for further development. As part of our school strategic review these subjects were already part of the action planning for the year ahead. It is an exciting time to push forward with these plans, knowing that we are heading in the right direction and maintaining the highest educational standards. I am sure that as parents you would agree that it was right to focus first on the core skills of reading, writing and maths throughout the pandemic, whilst keeping the quality of the broader curriculum high.

Already this term we have worked on developing communication links with our school community. Our new Sway newsletter is published half termly, celebrating the work taking place across the school. Our website remains the hub for school information and we will be working alongside parents and governors to improve this further to reach our whole community.

It was a privilege to share this excellent news with the outstanding team at Heronshaw and we look forward to celebrating with the children too. They are part of something special and we are very lucky to have them with us on our journey.

Please do take time to read through [the report in full here](#). If you have any questions or would like to comment on the report then do email me.

Kindest regards,



Jamie Ainscow

Headteacher

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