



Small School Big Ideas

NABURN C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL
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A Nut Free School

09.06.23

Dear parents and friends of Naburn School,

I am pleased to send you the Ofsted report from our recent full inspection held on 25th and 26th April 23 and delighted to tell you that the new judgement has removed us from Special Measures and our previous Inadequate rating.

The inspector has recognised the rapid and effective improvements that have been made over the last 18 months. Although our initial experience of Ofsted was very difficult, I'd like to publicly thank the lead Inspector Matthew Knox, who has seen us through this and the interim inspections, for his care in assessing our school with diligence and professionalism. His encouraging approach and advisory next steps considerably helped our path to improvement.

Clearly, as the judgement of Requires Improvement and the report describes, there is more to be done and Governors are not complacent but fully aware. We know where we are, what we have achieved, and have a clear path of where we are going, what we need to do next and I can assure you our rapid improvement will continue.

Our progress has been achieved through the sheer hard work of many people. In fact it's been an amazing team effort and there are many to thank.

Not least of those to thank is our incredible Headteacher Mr Johnathan Green who arrived less than 2 years ago for, he thought, a term or so, to a quiet village school following his retirement.

He was completely thrown in at the deep end but never shirked for a moment at the challenges ahead rising to tackle them head on with courage and enthusiasm. His tenacity, determination and belief in our school has been inspirational to me, all the governors and staff and all our community. We couldn't have done it without him. Thank you Johnathan.

His exceptional leadership has been key in inspiring our staff and I'd like to sincerely thank every member for their dedication and commitment to our school and it's pupils. We are

Hope Community Perseverance Compassion

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fortunate to have a highly skilled and talented staff, that know and understand each child thoroughly and whose continued aim is to improve the quality of education for every child to learn to their full potential. They have had to work extremely hard to get here, they know there is more to be done and I thank them for their resolve and commitment.

The Education Department of City of York Council have been instrumental in steering us through our improvements, in particular, Derek Sutherland, School Improvement Officer, who has led our governors through their Rapid Improvement Plan and sourced excellent support, both financial and practical, from the York School's Academies Board and Fishergate School. His advice and support has been invaluable and much appreciated.

There have been many people working behind the scenes supporting us; Assistant Director of Education Maxine Squire, our Ward Councillor Christian Vassie and our MP Julian Sturdy, all deserving huge thanks for promoting our cause.

The major thanks however must go to you, our parents and our community. If you hadn't stuck with us, having faith and belief in our school, we wouldn't have survived. The incredible turnout at our village meeting just over a year ago was pivotal in demonstrating that Naburn CofE School was cherished and valued at the heart of our community and would, after 150 years, not give up. Some lost faith, but you loyal and devoted parents placed your trust and the care and education of your children in us which has inspired and driven our determination to improve and succeed. You have each have my heartfelt thanks and gratitude for that.

There's much more about our school to be valued and cherished. As one parent mentioned in the Ofsted report, we are more like a big family. With Christian principles at the heart of everything we do; hope, community, perseverance and compassion are our principles and we pride ourselves on our inclusivity, diversity and welcoming nature.

As you know, we were required to find a Multi Academy Trust to sponsor us following our Inspection 18 months ago. The CEO of the MAT The Educational Alliance (TEAL) Jonny Uttley was inspired by our determination and the commitment of our community and everything I have mentioned. He recognised our qualities when he first visited us and was completely won over. He felt, and we agree, that we completely fit with their principles, which are:

"To make great schools and happier, stronger communities so that people have better lives. By: Always doing what is right, Trusting in each other and standing shoulder to shoulder, Doing what we know makes the difference, Doing what is right means always acting with integrity, in the interests of others, and being honest, open and transparent."

We are delighted and excited that TEAL have committed to taking us into their community. It is a highly respected MAT with quality ethos and values and we feel very fortunate to be joining them. The move secures our future, as long as we maintain our pupil numbers and will be beneficial not just financially, but in the access to the extensive support for teaching and learning they can provide. As you know, they have already appointed a new full time Head of

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School, Mrs Kate Durham who will join us to work alongside Mr Green for 2 terms or a year in a transitional role until the time Mr Green leaves us. Mrs Durham comes with considerable experience and expertise that I know will enhance the quality of education in our school and we look forward to welcoming her.

After being under threat of closure just a year ago, I can hardly believe where we are now, only achieved by the hard work, trust, belief and support of so many people, particularly you our parents.

We still have a lot of improvements to make but we will make them. And we have to keep our pupil numbers up. So spread the word, about how wonderful our 'small school with big ideas' really is!

Looking forward to a better, happier and stronger future!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anne M.M. Clark". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A'.

Anne Clark, Chair of Governors Naburn C of E Primary School

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