

ENJOYMENT, ACHIEVEMENT AND ASPIRATIONS



18<sup>th</sup> July 2019

Dear Families

As you may be aware, we had a fun 'pretend inspection' two weeks ago. With a play on words, we made it a 'Soft Ted' inspection (rather than an Ofsted inspection). Deborah, Chloe, Harvey and Royston joined Miss Panter and Graham Parkinson, our Chair of Governors, for a day spent looking all around the school and noticing as many positive things about Windmill as possible.

The report is attached, along with some photos on the other side of this page.

I thought it would be a fitting end to a very positive year to celebrate many things that are fantastic about Windmill Primary School.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Gibbons".

Mark Gibbons  
Headteacher





15th July 2019

Dear Mr Gibbons

Thank you for inviting me to Windmill Primary School on Wednesday July 3rd 2019 and for assigning Mr Parkinson, Chloe, Deborah, Harvey and Royston to join my inspection team. May I also thank all your pupils and staff for accommodating us, particularly Miss Panter who assisted very well indeed in taking photographs.

The team found Windmill Primary School to be 'Amazing' in many areas, particularly in regard to the school's motto: Enjoyment, Achievement and Aspirations.

### Enjoyment

Pupils feel welcomed when they arrive at school. The office staff greet everyone with a smile and teachers are cheery when they open the class doors at the beginning of the school day. The Soft Ted team noticed that pupils all looked happy throughout the school day. Inspectors were shown how the children felt safe, with doors and gates locked by caretaking coordinator Mrs Thompson and CCTV to monitor the playgrounds. Inclusion assistants are in all areas of school to help with any difficult situations. In class, pupils readily asked questions and received both support and encouragement to work things out independently. At break times, pupils played well together and there were lots of adults to help out. Staff were friendly, helpful and vigilant. In Nursery, there was lots of fun going on, with water play and ice cream play which all the children enjoyed, as well as reading outdoors. Year 1 was very calm and in Year 2, all pupils were listening and paying attention to the teacher! Year 3 pupils love learning to play violin and cello and the most able musicians have their tuition paid for throughout Years 4, 5 and 6.

### Achievement

In Reception they have class rules, which everyone obeyed and they played nicely. They also practise phonics and spellings to give them the best chance of success throughout the rest of their school life. Year 1 planted flowers and have grown pumpkins and tomatoes. The team noted how neat the handwriting was in the books of the Year 6 children, who were on a visit to Harper Adams University. The standard of teaching was considered by the inspectors to be very high, with pupils expected to follow the related school values: 'Aim High', 'Do Your Best', 'Don't Give Up' and 'Believe In Yourself'. Windmill children work hard and the quality of the work in their books compares favourably with other local schools. The pupils that master their learning objectives quickly are challenged to work at greater depth and those children requiring more support are given help and further chances to succeed.

### Aspirations

Windmill has the happiest staff team! Miss Panter said she had never seen anyone as happy as Mrs Dexter, the school's senior administrator. At lunch, Mr Parkinson sat next to Morgan and Whitney, who were extremely polite and helpful, telling him about how good the school is. Children are continually challenged to better themselves. We saw this with a Maths challenge set to Year 5 after they had finished their work. Windmill is a school where people can be proud of their learning and also look back with fond memories. This was

shown where Royston said how his older brother still talks fondly about how enjoyable his Maths lessons were, even though he left the school four years ago. Pupils regard Mr Gibbons as the best headteacher, because he is kind to everyone.

### Inclusion

Mrs Coles, Windmill's welfare lead, loves everyone in the school, which makes everyone feel included and wanted. Mr Millington's singing assembly put everyone in good spirits, and promoted togetherness. All the children said an enthusiastic 'good morning' and proceeded to sing their hearts out with smiles on their faces. At dinner time, children can sit where they like so they can mix with other year groups and socialise together. A Year 2 music lesson where children sang their own names in front of the class helped give confidence to pupils and helped with timing and concentration. In other classes, pupils were given the choice of working in partners or on their own. In Year 5, pupils paid attention and were given lots of praise. In Year 3 PE, coach Carl's child-led warm-ups showed the pupils' ability to come up with their own ideas. Coach got the pupils into cross-curricular thinking by asking the children to work out distances between cones and they all listened. He also got them thinking for themselves by asking them to choose different ways to move into space. Year 4 children who were learning about poems had a silent debate where they wrote down their own thoughts and their responses to other children's thoughts without interruption.

There is a huge range of visits programmed into the school's 'Deep and Diverse Experiences' curriculum. During pupils' time at Windmill, children will visit all of the Ironbridge Gorge Museums and places of worship of all major world religions. There are also residential visits in Year 2 (1 night in a bunkhouse), Year 4 (2 nights camping) and Year 6 (4 nights at Arthog Outdoor Education Centre, North Wales). In the thirteen years of Windmill's existence, no child has ever missed out on a trip because of finance. Mr Gibbons knows every child's name in school, so no one feels left out of anything.

### Facilities

The different activities at Windmill are amazing. The school has a strong track record of harnessing the power and potential of technology, with KS2 having personal laptops for the last 3 years that are used during the day and charged overnight ready for the next day. The school site is extensive, with a wonderful wildlife area (with pond), football and basketball courts and one of the best football pitches in Telford. There are also play parks and a traverse climbing wall. The play parks are allocated to a different year group every day, so everyone gets their turn. When Soft Ted inspectors asked children about the school's facilities, they were told that 'we are so lucky to have all the things that we have'.

There is a breakfast club starting from 7:45am and after-school care that finishes at 5:00pm. There are also a variety of after-school clubs, including book club, archery, athletics, arts and crafts, football, cricket and wild outdoors. But best of all are the teachers, who are so helpful and kind to everyone.

In conclusion Mr Gibbons, I must commend you on the excellent provision for children at Windmill Primary School. Your school is now officially 'amazing' and I am confident all children are given the best possible start to the rest of their lives.

Yours sincerely



Soft Ted, Chief Inspector

