



Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Dear Parents/ Carers,

***As you will know, recently the school underwent an OFSTED inspection and the report produced from that inspection is attached to this e-mail.*** I am overwhelmed with the wealth of positives that were highlighted by the Inspector; we collectively have created a super school. Of course this comes with effective partnership with parents and community members. Thank you.

**Prospect Vale was inspected on 24th July 2018 and the Inspector writes 'This school continues to be Good'.**

That line does not truly reflect the challenges that the school has faced and overcome and could suggest we haven't made progress. We were 'Good' previously and we are 'Good' presently.

**What you may not realise is the inspection framework has changed since our last inspection in 2013 and although our outcome is 'Good', that category actually means we have done even better than we did last time. I find the changes to the inspection framework frustrating as at first glance it doesn't signify the outstanding work by the staff at the school and the progress your children have made and continue to make.**

*I have to say how delighted I am with the report and the use of the word 'Good' aside, please take the time to read the detail of the letter attached.* It is even more amazing when you realise the inspection took place in the last week of the school year when staff and children alike were exhausted and awaiting a well-deserved holiday!

**The funding of the school continues to be an issue. The Governors will write to parents later in term highlighting Stockport is a poorly funded authority and costs are rising.**

For the Inspector to recognise the vibrancy and the richness of diversity and culture in the school shows just how adept the staff are at providing an incredible and rich curriculum with limited resources.

**It would be remiss of me to not mention the staff's personal contribution to your child's education which stretches far and beyond the classroom. Their work is not confined to the classroom and the hours they dedicate outside of school in preparation and going the extra mile is rarely acknowledged. The Inspector remarked on the numerous opportunities the children are given and I'm sure you will recognise the huge amount of extra effort the staff put into these opportunities and also you will see the reward your children get from them.**

Our school is safe. That is no accident and we have invested a lot into making the school so. Since the report we have installed CCTV to further enhance site security having improved fencing and gating to make our environment as safe as it is. The Inspector also commented on the great behaviour within the school and that bullying is rare. We are proud of this.

**There are so many more things that the Inspector didn't see and report on, as his visit was limited to one day but if you read the whole report you will see he picked up on the great efforts such as the improvement in writing and how it translates across the curriculum.**

I would finally like to thank Mr McDowell. His leadership of the staff and the school as a whole has afforded your children the best possible education. I see perhaps more than most the drive and effort he employs every day to raise standards and promote Prospect Vale to benefit the education, enrichment and enjoyment of each and every child.

Yours sincerely,

**Ian Cottrell**

**Chair of Governors**

