

*"Learning Together, Playing Together, Succeeding Together"*  
*Supported by Christian values*

*Headteacher: Richard Hearn*

19<sup>th</sup> May 2016

As you know, on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> May we had a visit from one of Her Majesty's Inspectors from OFSTED. The inspector was very thorough in his scrutiny of all that we do and the experience was extremely intense. The whole staff team did a great job and the pupils demonstrated their usual politeness, enthusiasm and hard work. Having now received the final report we are pleased to be able to share it with you.

The fact schools only get a few hours notice of the inspector's arrival means they see a true picture of the school's work and we are extremely happy to now be graded as a 'GOOD' school. We were pleased that the inspector agreed with our own evaluation of the school's strengths and he stated that the governors *maintain a clear overview of the school's strength and areas needing development*. Some of the comments from the full report are as follows:

- *Teachers plan classroom activities carefully and set work at the correct level for pupils' individual abilities . . . everyone is very clear about their role supporting pupils' learning. This good organisation ensures that pupils receive intensive support and make good progress.*
- *Teaching across the school is good.*
- *The strong emphasis on teaching reading skills helps pupils to develop a love of books.*
- *Teachers are helping pupils to develop a secure understanding of mathematical concepts and operations.*
- *Writing is also taught well, but teachers recognise that they need to strengthen the quality of teaching so as to raise standards.*
- *Pupils are keen to do well. They have good attitudes to learning.*
- *Pupils are confident that bullying is not an issue.*

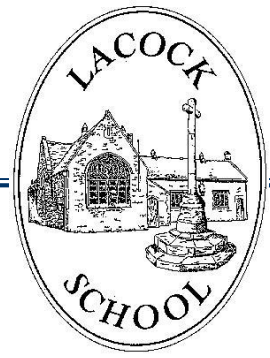
Of course there are always things we can improve and for us, raising standards in writing and making sure *all* children in *all* classes make rapid progress are our priorities for the rest of this year and into the next.

Thanks are due to all the staff, (teachers, teaching assistants, the office team, lunchtime supervisors and our cleaner, Lyn) for their hard work, enthusiasm and commitment, both during this inspection and in the last two years since the last inspection. Many changes have happened in education and all the team have done a great job implementing the new curriculum and assessment systems as well as many other new initiatives. I'd also like to thank the governors and all our visiting volunteer parents and helpers for all their hard work. Last but by no means least, thank you to all parents and pupils for your support.

The full report can be found on the OFSTED website at: <http://tinyurl.com/jgc4pym> or on our school website at: [www.lacock.wilts.sch.uk](http://www.lacock.wilts.sch.uk) and all parents should receive a copy today, either by email via HomeContact or as a paper copy.

This is also a good opportunity to look forward to September and I can now announce that the new teacher in Beech class will be Mrs Ashleigh Whitbread. She will be joining the staff for our TD day next week to plan for next year and then visiting the children next term, when she will also be able to meet parents of children who will be in Beech class in September.

Richard Hearn (Headteacher)



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**Dear Parents,**

***You will by now have heard the very positive news that our school has been graded as GOOD by the recent OfSTED inspection. This is a genuinely exceptional achievement and reflects the journey that the school has made over the last 4 years and in particular since the last inspection 2 years ago. The report is a true reflection of the collaborative team effort made by the teaching staff, pupils, parents and governors to make improvements in all key areas.***

***In marking this pivotal moment it is right that we should pay tribute to our head, Richard Hearn for his excellent & steadfast leadership as well as the individual and collective incremental changes and improvements made by the teachers and teaching assistants who make up the teaching team (including some who have recently left) across all age groups. Additionally we must recognise the very significant contribution made by our administrative staff who do so much work behind the scenes to make the school run efficiently and effectively. Our governors also (all of whom are unpaid volunteers) for their time, dedication and experience in ensuring that the strategy, governance and framework is in place for improvement to take hold and flourish. We must not forget those volunteers who give up their time each week to support the children and of course Lyn who does such a great job keeping the school clean.***

***No one should under estimate the stresses and strains that an impending inspection has on the pupils, staff and governors – that we have come through it with such a positive report is a credit to us all. We are all hugely appreciative of the hard work, dedication, and professionalism shown by the staff and the welcome, humour and sheer joy for life demonstrated by our pupils.***

***You will have received a copy of the report, either by email or in paper copy. It is also available on our website – I urge you to read it. As you would expect it highlights our many strengths but also points out areas for development. These will form the focus of our attention in the upcoming weeks and months so that improvement continues to be made. Amongst the shifting sands of state education the school will face many challenges ahead. We are well placed to meet them now that the solid foundations are in place to provide quality, stability and consistency of education to all who attend our school.***

***Yours ever,***

***Johnny Wrench  
Chair of Governors***