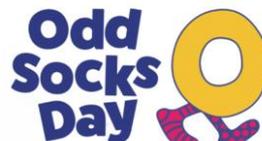


Homework –

Friday 8th November 2019



Mrs Noble



Tuesday
13th November

Dear Parent/Carer

Let me thank all parents on behalf of the staff for the support you showed us during the Ofsted visit on Tuesday 5th and Wednesday 6th November. There were 29 parents who responded to **Parent View** and it is brilliant that 100% thought their children were happy at the school; their children felt safe; their children did well; and that they would recommend this school to another parent... I cannot really express how proud it makes us feel, as a staff, that our parents are so supportive of what we do: I can't overemphasise how **energised** that made us feel, knowing that we had your confidence.

That parental support is **so vital** to staff because an Ofsted Inspection is a very unpleasant experience for teachers. It is like being turned inside out and then scrubbed with a wire brush. It does not matter that we know how hard we work and that we work here out of love for the children and the community – it doesn't matter that we know all that, because when you get **the call** from Ofsted (and in schools, everyone refers to it as **the call**) we know that a single stranger can come into the school for two days and they can make their judgement based on a tiny snapshot and then their judgement becomes what the world thinks. We also know that they come with a very narrow focus and don't really interest themselves in what I would call 'the bigger picture'. Imagine the pressure that puts us all under – and please don't think it's just pressure on the Headteacher: every member of staff feels that anxiety because we are a team. We haven't eaten properly, we haven't slept and there have been plenty of tears – and this is because the school means so much to all of us. I can assure parents that their children are taught and looked after by people who profoundly care about what they are doing and that the process of inspection is **the hardest** of professional experiences.

Having said that, we are quite satisfied with the provisional outcome of the inspection (one of the weird things about an inspection is that you parents cannot be informed about **provisional findings**: you have to wait for the published report from Ofsted which will be out in December).

Parents and carers, what you have at this school (and it is the first time I can say it after Ofsted in 2006, 2010, 2016 and 2019) is a staff where everyone pulls in the same direction and works as a team and where everyone loves what they are doing. This is as rare in a school as the 100% support given by parents – because as we all know, there are usually at least one or two...

And as well as all the love and the teamwork, for the first time in the four Ofsted Inspections, I can say that the senior members of staff (and governors) grilled by the Inspector showed a brilliant understanding of their roles and responsibilities – and performed superbly: I watched a lot of that and I was awestruck. Every member of staff did their bit brilliantly. So what we have at Ivanhoe is a wonderful platform for even greater things in the future - nothing can stop a committed, talented staff combined with a supportive community and wonderful children: so on we go.

Please use the comment box below to write anything you have to say about the homework or about any other school issues...

Signed:

Please make sure that your child's medical details and emergency contact numbers are with the office and up-to-date.

