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1st October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our Ofsted Inspection Report

I am very pleased to be able to share with you the report from our recent Ofsted inspection, which took place on 15th and 16th September 2026.

As you may be aware, Ofsted introduced a completely new inspection framework and report card system last year. Schools no longer receive a single overall judgement such as Outstanding, Good or Requires Improvement. Instead, inspectors evaluate a number of different aspects of a school's work using five standards: Exceptional, Strong Standard, Expected Standard, Needs Attention and Urgent Improvement. Ofsted is clear that these new grades cannot be directly compared with the previous grading system.

I am delighted that our school has been judged to be meeting the **Expected Standard in every area inspected**, with our safeguarding standards also confirmed as met.

It is important to understand that **Expected Standard represents a high bar**. Ofsted's own guidance for parents explains that Expected Standard means a school is "doing everything that it should be doing" and describes this explicitly as "a high standard, to make sure your children are receiving everything they need and deserve."

There is much in the report of which we are extremely proud. Inspectors recognised that our pupils enjoy coming to our welcoming and caring school, feel safe and have warm, trusting relationships with staff. They found that bullying is infrequent and dealt with effectively and that our children demonstrate kindness and respect towards one another.

The report also recognises a number of important strengths across the school. Inspectors found that:

- our curriculum is broad, well organised and builds pupils' knowledge over time, with teaching typically effective;
- our children are generally well prepared for the next stage of their education;
- inclusion is a priority, with high expectations for pupils with SEND and personalised support valued by families;
- our pastoral care is a positive feature of the school, with nurture staff, sports mentors and breakfast club staff contributing to children's social and emotional wellbeing;

- children in our early years are happy, secure and increasingly independent, with skilful phonics teaching beginning promptly;
- pupils have access to a broad range of clubs, experiences, outdoor learning and leadership opportunities;
- attendance is strong, with leaders working closely with families where children experience barriers to attending school;
- governors know the school well and carry out their responsibilities effectively.

I was particularly pleased that inspectors recognised the work we have undertaken around inclusion. The report states that pupils with SEND, including those with more complex needs, are included in all aspects of school life and make meaningful progress from their starting points. It also recognises the way in which we adapt opportunities so that all children can participate and develop a genuine sense of belonging.

Of course, a rigorous inspection should also help a school identify how it can become even better. Ofsted has identified three next steps for us: ensuring that staff check pupils' understanding precisely and address misconceptions consistently; continuing to embed our approach to foundational knowledge and skills, including handwriting; and sharpening the way we evaluate the impact of our pupil premium strategy. These priorities are helpful and closely align with the improvement work we have already begun this year.

I would like to thank our wonderful children, who spoke openly and confidently to inspectors and demonstrated what makes Ravenshead such a special community. I would also like to thank our staff and governors for their continued hard work and commitment, and you, our parents and carers, for your ongoing support and for the positive views you shared with inspectors.

I hope you enjoy reading the full report, which accompanies this letter. You can also read Ofsted's explanation of the new report cards and grading system here:

Understanding Ofsted report cards and grades – GOV.UK

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Emma Johnson
Headteacher