



Friday 26th September

Dear Parents

Alongside this letter today you will be receiving our Ofsted report, which was undertaken on Tuesday 15th and Wednesday 16th July. As you may know, Ofsted no longer award an overall judgement for schools – they instead award a judgement for five key areas. We are delighted that Ofsted recognised the great work happening in school and awarded judgements of Good for Behaviour and Attitudes, Personal Development and Early Years. Judgements of Requires Improvement were awarded for Quality of Education and Leadership and Management.

The report has identified areas of strength at our school and highlighted some of the many improvements which have taken place since our previous inspection. Inspectors identified our school as a place where everybody feels included and could see that our 'shine values' support kindness from everyone. They have recognised improvements in behaviour throughout the school and praised the work done to significantly improve attendance. We would like to thank you for your support with this – without you sharing consistent messages at home and working hard to get your children to school every day, this would not have been possible. Inspectors have also highlighted the positive start made to school by pupils in Reception, the many opportunities and experiences all pupils have that support their personal development and describes the numerous positive changes and improvements made to the curriculum.

Despite identifying the many positive changes made in school and the detailed plans in place to continue our journey of improvement, both Quality of Education and Leadership and Management were judged as Requiring Improvement. We continue to be supported by Trust leaders and our CEO Michael Cowland has shared the following comment:

"Our trust has been subject to dozens of Ofsted inspections and, while we accept this judgement, we do not believe the improvements that have been made at the school are fully recognised. However, we have taken the areas for improvement on board, leadership is secure, and we will continue to engage with the Department for Education and its excellent RISE initiative. Our focus has not changed, we will continue to work hard every day to ensure the children of Southam St James CofE Academy receive the excellent education they deserve."

Our Academy Improvement plans for this year already included the areas identified in this report as areas for continued development. We are working closely with Trust leaders and several external providers through the RISE initiative to continue the progress made so far and are excited for the year ahead. We are already noticing improvements in pupil presentation and have delivered several CPD sessions to further support a consistently effective approach to delivering the curriculum across school.

As always, we welcome any questions or comments from yourselves. We will be holding a 'Coffee and Catch up' next Friday, 3rd October from 9.30am – 10am (straight after Celebration Worship). There will be hot drinks and biscuits available, and both Mrs Hothi and I will be available to chat with you and answer your questions then.

Many thanks for your continued support – we very much value the good home-school relationships that have supported our great progress. We encourage you to read the full report and see for yourself all the positive areas that were identified and celebrated.

Best wishes

Laura Richards, Headteacher

