



Dear Parents & Carers,

I am thrilled to be able to share with you the report from our recent Ofsted inspection on the 14th & 15th of February, 2023.

Sawley Junior School was last visited by Ofsted in 2017: we were graded 'Good' and as such were subject to an ungraded inspection which is an inspection that checks if the school's provision remains good.

I am extremely pleased to announce that **Sawley Junior School continues to be a 'Good' school** and that the school continues to be a safe and happy place that children and staff are proud to be a part of.

I would firstly like to emphasise how immensely proud I am of all of our children and staff at Sawley. The inspector has noted that children who attend Sawley can be themselves in a community whose 'foundation is based on respect'.

The inspection report highlights many of Sawley's strengths. There was high praise for the way we have designed an effective curriculum that prepares our children for their next steps. The report states that reading is a priority: the inspector said, "I felt surrounded by books!" and went on to commend the reading culture we have established, including enrichment opportunities such as Wilmot's Wordsmith Week and the opportunities children have to be Reading Buddies. Provision for pupils' wider development was also noted as a strength.

I have selected a few other headline findings from the report below:

- Pupils are positive about their learning. They take pride in their work.
- Pupils' personal development is a high priority here. Pupils learn the importance of working together.
- The school has high expectations of the all pupils' work and conduct.
- Leaders are ambitious for all pupils. They have designed the curriculum to prepare pupils well for their next steps in education. They have a clear mission to give pupils a broad, rich set of experiences that help them to grow in confidence.
- Pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities benefit from high-quality support. Skilled leaders identify ways to ensure that pupils' needs are met.
- The school takes a positive approach to managing behaviour. Pupils said they know what is expected of them.
- The school provides effective support for pupils and their families.
- The school prioritises pupils' well-being. Pupils learn ways to stay mentally healthy.

We have been given one improvement point which concerns the teaching of phonics. This is something we have had to address due to the impact of the pandemic and we have been working with Sawley Infants (who have been providing advice and training) to improve our skills in this area for all staff.

Please take the time to read the inspection report which I feel captures the real essence of what Sawley Juniors is about. I am delighted with our 'good' judgement particularly at a time when the benchmark for 'good' is at the highest level it has ever been. The Ofsted inspection was thorough, robust and professionally rigorous. The leadership team and I were open and transparent around all aspects of school life and had much evidence to support the process.

On a personal note, those of you that know me, will know that I have been at Sawley for quite a while! It's been an absolute privilege to work with your children over the years and watch the school grow, change and thrive. It is also a privilege to work alongside such a dedicated team of staff who work with an unrelenting drive to achieve excellence for our children.

Thank you to all of our families for your continued support.

Alison Burton

Headteacher

