



Castleway Primary School

Be kind. Be confident. Be your best.

Monday, 16th January 2023

Dear Families,

This letter is to accompany the published version of Castleway Primary School's Ofsted report following our inspection in November 2022. The final report is to be published online this month.

I think you'll agree with me that it is very pleasing to read such positive things about our school and I am happy with the conclusions the inspectors came to after spending two days in our school. The inspectors recognised the many things that we are so proud of here at Castleway and have acknowledged the improvement journey we have been on since my arrival in April 2021. Below are just a few of the wonderfully positive things said about our school.

'Pupils are proud of their school.'	'Everyone is welcome and everyone is valued at Castleway.'	'It is a vibrant and happy place.'
'Pupils understand the importance of treating everyone with equal respect, regardless of their differences.'	'Pupils feel safe and secure.'	'Pupils have positive attitudes to learning and are motivated to try their best.'
'Through their sharp focus and decisive actions to improve the school, leaders have firmly established their high expectations.'	'Castleway is an exciting place to learn and work.'	'Leaders have ensured that pupils, including those with SEND, have access to a broad and ambitious curriculum.'
'Leaders have placed reading front and centre in the improved curriculum.'	'Leaders have ensured that the early reading curriculum is structured clearly.'	'Pupils are polite, friendly and caring towards each other.'
'Pupils benefit from carefully designed opportunities to develop their understanding of the wider world.'	'The celebration of diversity and equality are common threads in all aspects of school life.'	'Members of the governing body have strong expertise and provide appropriate levels of challenge and support to school leaders.'

It's also important to mention something that isn't featured in the report. Janette Walker (the Lead Inspector) commented on the overwhelmingly positive feedback from our families via their online survey: **100% would recommend our school** to others. Janette Walker commented that **this is unprecedented** and we are incredibly proud of this.

It would be an entirely reasonable question to ask why I am pleased when the overall judgement has moved from 'Good' to 'Requires Improvement' since the previous inspection. The answer to that is that our school has been on a significant journey since the previous inspection (March 2016). The inspectors acknowledge this in the report: *'After the previous inspection, there followed a period of considerable instability in school leadership. A new headteacher was appointed in April 2021.'* In addition to this, a new Ofsted framework was implemented that has moved the goalposts considerably, with the intention of making it far harder to gain the top grades. My own thoughts are that this is entirely the right thing to do. Schools need to be challenged and it is quite right that the standards demanded from us are as high as they can be.

I would like to comment on what the inspectors said really stood out for them and that is the ethos and atmosphere within our school. This is nothing that can be manufactured or prepared for when the inspectors call – it is something that takes time to develop and nurture. The preparation for our inspection was minimal, we found out at 9:30am on Monday and the inspectors were in school at 8am the next day. My message to our children and staff was a simple one, do what they usually do because that makes us proud and I am pleased to say they did and we were!

Headteacher: Mr. S. Mycroft

Castleway Primary School, Castleway North, Moreton, Wirral, CH46 1RN

☎: (0151) 677 2953 ✉: schooloffice@castleway.wirral.sch.uk 💻: www.castleway.wirral.sch.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/CastlewayPrimary Twitter: www.twitter.com/CastlewaySchool Instagram: [@WeAreCastleway](https://www.instagram.com/WeAreCastleway)



I am eager and keen to meet the challenges ahead and will do everything in my power to continue to raise attainment and address the key actions identified by Ofsted, as will our staff team. You hopefully know by now that I am incredibly passionate about only the best being good enough for our children. From their teaching in English and Maths, to the wider opportunities available and even the building itself, **only the best will do for Castleway.**

Underpinning the drive for improvement, however, is something less tangible – the values we try and teach our children, the way they treat each other, the way they behave both in class and out – ultimately the way we want them to develop as members of a community where respect and care are paramount. Having this embedded in the way we have surely makes us better placed to address the areas we can get even better at.

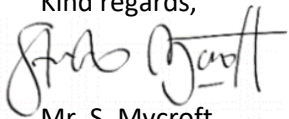
I feel great pride about everything we've achieved at Castleway since my arrival. Our school is a happy, engaging and inclusive place to be and the fact that we have so many positives to share, including 'good' judgements for '**Behaviour & Attitudes**', '**Personal Development**' and '**Leadership & Management**' is something to be really proud of.

I would like to thank all of our families who support our work so well because without that partnership children would not flourish and shine as they do.

As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

We are Castleway and we are proud of it.

Kind regards,



Mr. S. Mycroft
Headteacher



Please also see the message below from Mr. Carney, Chair of Governors:

The recent Ofsted inspection of our primary school was an opportunity to showcase what is special and unique about Castleway. As governors, we would like to extend our warm appreciation and thanks to Mr Mycroft and his team for their impressive work in achieving such a positive outcome.

As Chair of Governors, one particular comment stood out for me, namely the observation that Castleway is a "vibrant and happy place". The report reflects Mr Mycroft's considerable success in turning around the fortunes of Castleway Primary School since his arrival some eighteen months ago, and in making our school a place of learning that increasing numbers of parents want their children to attend.

Whilst the report sets out some important areas for improvement, there is also much to celebrate. In the year ahead, we will work with Mr Mycroft to build on the progress already made and to address Ofsted's recommendations. Finally, I would like to thank you as parents, guardians and carers, for your continued support and interest in the life of both our schools, and indeed to wish you a happy New Year.

Steve Carney, Chair of The Unity Federation Governing Body