Lady Joanna Thornhill (Endowed) Primary School

Learning for the Head, Heart and Hand



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Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to share with you the findings of our recent Ofsted inspection at Lady Joanna. Although the report is short in nature, it reflects the exceptionality of our school community and the incredible progress we have made in the last few years.

Over this period, so much has changed. We have introduced a brand-new curriculum and assessment system, keeping you regularly informed of your child's progress. We have also implemented key tracking systems for behaviour and safeguarding, set up an Inclusion Team, and provided a wealth of enriching clubs and wrap-around care to support our families. Our school environment has been transformed, with the addition of a pupil kitchen, performing arts studio, and OPAL to maximise opportunities for play. The Early Years outdoor area has been completely updated, and we have even welcomed some animals to our school. Specialised teachers for music and dance have been instrumental in delivering a truly exceptional curriculum, with all children having the opportunity to learn an instrument, take part in class assemblies, performances, links with the Marlowe theatre and much more! There have been many, many more developments (too many to mention!) with all staff contributing to positive change. I have an exceptional team that have supported this improvement journey and we are lucky to have a strong community that works towards shared goals. I am incredibly thankful for your support.

Throughout this journey, we have never played it safe or made changes solely for the purpose of Ofsted. Instead, we have made brave decisions, always keeping the children at the heart of the process as we serve our community. The report does not capture the full extent of the positive feedback we received from the inspectors, including the Inclusion Team being described as going "above and beyond" to support children and families, and the exceptional personal development of our pupils and our outstanding investment in the professional development of our staff team. The positive comments from Parent View were absolutely incredible – thank you for taking the time to share these.

I feel incredibly proud of our school community, and I am grateful for the strong governance, amazing leadership team, and wonderful teaching staff, as well as our supportive parents and, most importantly, our truly exceptional children. While we may have been just a whisker away from an outstanding judgement across the board, this report is a testament to the incredible progress we have made and the bright future that lies ahead for Lady Joanna.

Yours sincerely

Mrs R Foster
Headteacher